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Without inquiring how far it may be allowable to inflate a small literary enterprise with an air of "public duty," or denying that all true descriptions of the poetry of other nations have value for "philosophic" as well as for other readers, it may be declared that in order to make either plea good certain conditions are expected, of which two are indispensable:—the first, natural and acquired aptitude for the subject,—the second, a due knowledge of all that belongs to its appreciation. In Mr. Kennedy's book neither of these qualifications is sufficiently apparent. His critical remarks on the authors, and his choice of the pieces taken from their works, do not evince a judgment much conversant with aesthetic studies; his own versions give but slight evidence of those natural gifts which sometimes unconsciously supply the want of genial culture. Indeed, his practice, to judge by these essays, is at least as deficient as his theory of poetry. Of this part of his qualifications every reader of the volume can judge for himself; and few will deny that, if the Poets whom Mr. Kennedy extols have been judiciously admired, he has sadly failed in transferring their beauties to our language.

It may further be doubted whether Mr. Kennedy possesses that general knowledge of Spanish literature which should precede any attempt to review its latest productions. We rather apprehend, that instead of fortifying himself in the first place by a thorough intimacy with the elder Poets, his preference has been in a great measure engrossed by the moderns, whose works he began to translate "as a means of acquiring an accurate knowledge of the Spanish language,"—a course which would not greatly conduce to "accurate" appreciation of the relative merits of either. This suspicion is founded on the assertions and opinions hazarded in his 'Introduction'; many of the statements of which will be new, if not surprising, to Spanish scholars. To examine these in detail would hardly be worth the labour, even had we space for it: a glance at one or two of the more remarkable will prove that Mr. Kennedy's survey of the ground has been singular, if not partial. He avers that the notions prevalent on this subject are all wrong,—and proceeds to correct them in a very summary manner. It is a mistake to suppose that "consequent upon the domination of the Moors in Spain there are to be

found in Spanish literature any of the exuberances of style" which characterize Eastern poetry; the error of this notion, he says, is shown by the plain and vigorous style of the old romances. What share the Eastern spirit may have had in the tone of Spanish poetry, we need not here discuss; for Mr. Kennedy ventures further to assert, that the "simplicity of expression and propriety of thought" which certainly prevail in those old ballads have characterized all other Spanish poetry "to the present day,"—while "the poetry of the Northern nations of Europe has been marked by extravagancies throughout." To those who are familiar with the whole range of the Castilian Muses this will be an amazing statement. We cannot overlook the drama, that flower and crown *par excellence* of Spanish poetry, its highest development,—which Mr. Kennedy's narrow critical scale excludes from the title, as he understands it. But even omitting this principal feature, the case is strong enough. Mr. Kennedy seems to forget how large a surface in the lyrical and elegiac departments is devoted to Love in pastoral and other disguises. Does he mean to claim for the fantastic conceits and extravagancies of phrase which abound in the effusions on that topic "simplicity of expression and propriety of thought"? And how, if he recollected these, could he assert that "the national literature, even in its lightest productions, assumed the tone of high moral and practical tendency which it has generally borne, far removed from the comparatively trifling topics which formed the staple subjects of the literature of neighbouring countries"? Now, it happens that these Love-verses, charming, fanciful, and luxuriant, but certainly of no very "high moral and practical tendency," form a large part of the choicest fruits of the Spanish muse, from Santillana down to Melendez. There exists, indeed, no other poetic literature which it would be more absurd to praise for its abstinence from what are evidently pointed at as the "comparatively trifling topics" which formed the "staple" of song in "neighbouring countries." This mistake is the more fatal to any just view of the subject, inasmuch as Spain has produced no great poem of the highest class:—the rude early epic of 'The Cid' being the nearest approach that she has ever made to that distinction. Of other performances, full of deep feeling, or instinct with a grace and masculine beauty, she has, indeed, not a few: the magnificent Odes and Elegies of Herrera "the Divine," the sweet solemnities of Fray Luis, continued, with a more exquisite art, the same vein of elevated or pensive thought, which had inspired the *coplas* of Manrique, and was not unfelt in the rugged *trécintas* of Juan de Mena. Still, it is true that these form by no means the most numerous instances in which Spanish poetry has risen to excellence;—that in general her sententious and serious compositions do not reach to the level of works of supreme genius. They chiefly belong to a class in which reflection, study, or experience of the world takes the place of inspiration, to versified eloquence or wisdom in fact,—which after all is prosaic and not poetic. *Debuera dixit dicere, non cecinit.* This definition Mr. Kennedy would perhaps dispute; since he is delighted with modern pieces to which the same censure still more strongly applies. According to a certain view of the art, indeed, everything is poetry that runs in metre and contains "fine sentiments." But this is hardly a standard by which the jewels of any language can be authentically valued in the present day. These, in the Castilian, shine with the rarest brilliancy and profusion, in the drama as well as in lyric and other modes, precisely in that very region from which Mr. Kennedy as-

ures us that the national literature has always, "even in its highest productions," been "far removed."

After this, it is no additional surprise to find that Mr. Kennedy rates the moderns who are honoured with a place in his book above their predecessors; "believing that Spanish literature has never been more truly original and flourishing than during the present and preceding ages"—since the days of Luzan, of course. Nor will it be worth while to compare this statement as to "originality" with the subsequent observation, that the "later writers have, perhaps unconsciously, taken better models than their predecessors"—those of the preceding or French age being meant—"by preferring the study of English literature to that of the French." On the system adopted, it is natural to set Moratin and the Duke de Rivas, as writers for the stage, above Lope, Calderon, and Tirso de Molina,—calling the former of the two moderns, who tried to naturalize the prosaic French *comédie de mœurs*, the "great reformer of the Spanish stage;" and saying of the Duke's 'Don Alvaro'—a dextrous *pasticcio* of many styles, foreign and domestic—that "never had a drama been produced in Spain of so high a character." This verdict on the productions of a land that gave birth to 'El Principe Constante' and 'El Magico Prodigioso,' to the 'Nise' of Bernudez and to Cervantes's 'Numancia'—will afford the initiated a measure of what Mr. Kennedy understands by "high character," and how far he is qualified to judge of poetic life, in any character whatsoever, as distinguished from painted skeletons, dead at heart, however well dressed in "probabilities" and "decorums."

But another measure is not wanting:—*Si documentum queris, inspicere.* Here is the English version of what we are bid to receive as fair specimens of a race of poets equal, as aforesaid, to any who have been before them:—a version, too, which, as the preface expressly intimates, owing to "the immense advantage for the translator" afforded by "the monosyllabic elements (!) of our language," "may sometimes be even superior to the original." So that if no adept in poetry can find in any one of the pieces here presented wherewithal to confirm Mr. Kennedy's estimate, it would be apparent, on his own showing, to what cause the disappointment must be due. But it would not be right to rate them so. The originals, though far from being transcendent, are, one and all, better than they are here represented to be. They might, indeed, be thrice as good as the poems in English, without rising to the height which Mr. Kennedy has assigned to them.

What their right place on the Spanish Parnassus may be, we shall not here discuss:—and for this among other reasons, that we have already before now had many opportunities of stating our view of modern Spanish poetry—of the circumstances affecting its growth—of the causes of its instability, eclecticism, and want of vital energy—of the various influences that have made it as far as possible from being "original and flourishing"—and of its future prospects: on every one of which points, of course, our view differs as widely as possible from Mr. Kennedy's. The quality of the proofs now offered on behalf of his notion is hardly such as will seduce by its ravishing effect the judgments that may already have been founded on more deliberate and wider surveys, whether of the field he has ventured into, or of the general rules of taste applicable to its productions.

The authors introduced, with short biographical sketches of each—interlarded with much praise transcribed from contemporary friends or

reviewers—are, Jovellanos; Iriarte the fabulist; Melendez Valdes, the best poet in the list; the younger Moratin; Arriaza; Quintana, the respectable author of the 'Vidas'; Martinez de la Rosa, ex-statesman, the smallest of poetasters; the Duke de Rivas, and Breton de los Herreros, both well deserving of notice for their plays, which are omitted, but destitute of the least desert for their separate pieces in verse; Heredia, the Cuban, a local reputation; Espronceda; and, last of all, Zorrilla (of whom the *Athenæum*, some time since, gave an account not quite so rapturous as Mr. Kennedy's) labelled with the title of "an eminently great poet." In all this list, we affirm, there is no single author of the first, or even the second, class. Iriarte in his best performance is a pleasing kind of Spanish Gay,—Quintana, eloquent, sensible and academic, with a good command of his noble language, is devoid of poetic animation:—the others, excepting Zorrilla and the two dramatists, whose genius should have been viewed on the boards, are all of decidedly minor dimensions,—furbishers of foreign wares, and not even remarkable for the skill with which borrowed thoughts and fashions are converted into Spanish. Of their quality the reader may judge for himself.

Here is the opening of Espronceda's 'Reo de Muerte,' a reminiscence of Victor Hugo,—not the worst specimen of Mr. Kennedy's translation.

His form upon the ground reclined,
With bitter anguish inward drawn,
Full of the coming day's dread,
That soon will sadly dawn,
The culprit waits, in silence laid,
The fatal moments hastening now,
In which his last sun's light display'd
Will shine upon his brow.
O'er crucifix and altar there,
The chapel cell in mourning hung,
From the dim candle's yellow glare
A funeral light is flung;
And by the wretched culprit's side,
His face with blood half cover'd o'er,
The friar, with trembling voice to guide,
Is heard his prayers implore.
His brow then raises he again,
And slowly lifts to heaven his eyes;
Perhaps a prayer for mercy vain
May in his grief arise.
A tear flows: whence had that release?
Was it from bitterness or fear?
Perhaps his sorrows to increase
Some thought to memory dear?
So young! and life, that he had dream'd
Was full of golden days to glide,
Is pass'd, when childhood's tears it seem'd
As scarcely yet were dried.
Then on him of his childhood burst
The thought, and of his mother's woe,
That he whom she so fondly nursed
Was doom'd that death to know.
And while that hopelessly he sees
His course already death arrest,
He feels his life's best energies
Beat strongly in his breast;
And sees that friar, who calmly now
Is laid, with sleep no more to strive,
With age so feebly doom'd to bow,
To-morrow will survive.
But hark! what noise the silence breaks
This hour unseasonably by?
Some one a gay guitar awakes
And mirthful songs reply;
And shouts are raised, and sounds are heard
Of bottles rattling, and perchance
Others, remember'd well, concur'd
Of lovers in the dance.
And then he hears funeral roll,
Between each pause, in accents high,
"Your alms, for prayers to rest the soul
Of him condemn'd to die."
And so combined the drunkard's shout,
The toat, the strifes, and fancies wild
Of all that Bacchanalian rout,
With wanton's songs defied,
And bursts of idle laughter, reach
Distinct into the gloomy cell,
And seem far off ejected each
The very sounds of hell!
And then he hears funeral roll
Between each pause, those accents high,
"Your alms, for prayers to rest the soul
Of him condemn'd to die."
He cursed them all, as one by one
The impious echoes each express'd;
He cursed the mother as a son
Who nursed him at her breast:

The whole world round alike he cursed,
His evil destiny forlorn,
And the dark day and hour when first
That wretched he was born.

Arriaza is not so well treated by the interpreter. In pity to him we shall give but a few of the stanzas "to Sylvia."

Sylvia! the cruel moment's near
When I must say farewell!
For hark! the cannon's sounds we hear
Of my departure tell.
Thy lover comes to give thee now
The last adieu, and part!
With sorrow overcast his brow,
And sorrowful his heart.

Come, object of my love divine!
Reach me those beautiful arms:
Would fate my happy lot assign
My home and rest thy charms,
The blow that threatens its decree
To give, I should not meet;
For sooner than that part, 't would see
Me dying at thy feet.

O! had our passion equal force,
Or been of equal growth,
The grief of absence might its course
Divide between us both!
But thou a face indifferent,
Or pleased, dost give to view,
Whilst I have not ev'n breath content
To say to thee, Adieu.

A gentle river murmuring by,
In calmness bathes the plain,
And of its waters the supply
Sees beautiful flowers attain;
In silence thou, my lonely grief,
Dost bathe my wretched breast,
And Sylvia's pity in relief
For me canst not arrest.

But what, my Sylvia, dost thou say?
What means that tender sigh?
Why do I see, mid tears that stray,
Shine forth thy beaming eye?
As opens to the sun opposed
On some clear day the cloud,
And his rays make the drops disclosed
To sparkle as they flow'd.

On me dost thou those languid eyes
Turn with that tender gaze?
Loose thy cheek its rosy dyes,
Nor beauty less display?
Thy ruby lips a moment brief
Thou opest, and sorrow seals:
How fair the very show of grief
Itself in thee reveals!

Insensate! how I wildly thought
My bitter griefs would gain
Some ease, if thou wert also taught
A portion of my pain!
Pardon the error that deceived,
O, Sylvia! I implore;
No more thy sorrow now has grieved,
Than thy disdain before.

My bliss! I pray no more to swerve!
Calm those heart-breaking pains:
Thy grief to have, does not deserve
All that the world contains.
May all life's hours, in calm serene,
Be ever pass'd by thee;
And all that darker intervene
Reserved alone for me!

But Melendez, the best lyrical of all, has the hardest measure. It is not easy, indeed, to repeat the facility and melodious numbers which are his chief graces,—in imitating which "the monosyllabic character of the English" is known by proficient in this business to be anything but "an immense advantage to the translator." Still, he might have been introduced with somewhat more of his native fluency and sweetness. For the rough prosaic venture in which he now appears Mr. Kennedy is wholly answerable.—

Of the Sciences.

I applied myself to science,
In its great truths believing,
That from my troubles I hence
Some ease might be receiving.
O! what a sad delusion!
What lessons dear I learn'd me!
To verses in conclusion,
And mirth and dance I turn'd me.
As if it were that life could
Produce so little trouble,
That we with toils and strife would
Make each one of them double.
I stand by smiling Bacchus,
In joys we want to wrap he;
The wise, Dorila, lack us
The knowledge to be happy.
What matters it, if even
In fair as diamond splendour,
The sun is fix'd in heaven?
Me light he's born to render.

The moon is, so me tell they,
With living beings swamy;
"There may be thousands," well they
Can never come to harm me!

From Danube to the Ganges,
History tells how did he
The Macedonian launch his
Proud banner fierce and giddy!

What's that to us, to entice us,
If only half this valley,
To feed our lambs suffice us,
With all our wants to tally?

If not, leave all to justice:
Give me some drink, o'erpower'd
With but to name this goddess,
I feel myself a coward.

They much who study ever
Have thousand plagues annoy them;
Which in their best endeavour
Their peace and joy destroy them:

And then what do they gather?
A thousand doubts upspringing,
Which other puzzlings farther
Them other doubts are bringing.

And so through life they haste on,
One envious truly!
Disputes and hates to waste on,
And ne'er agreeing throughly.

My shepherd girl! but bring me
Then wine abundant very,
And fear not songs I'll sing thee,
As endlessly and merry.

After these specimens, it will not be needful to apologize for doubting Mr. Kennedy's vocation as a sponsor for any kind of poetry whatever,—or for recording our entire dissent from his judgment of the poets who are here eulogized, and of the literature illustrated by their greater predecessors.

The Enterlude of John Bon and Mast Person: a Dialogue, on the Festival of Corpus Christi, &c. in Verse. Edited by W. H. Black. Printed for the Percy Society.

THIS, the last publication of the now defunct Percy Society, is very well edited; and, excepting that the reprints made by Smeeton in 1807 are by no means uncommon, its subject deserved re-impression. Looking at this tract without reference to many that have gone before it, we should regret that the literary association which issued it is at an end. If the Percy Society had always done its work as well, it might have enjoyed a much longer existence.

It is a mistake, however, to call the tract before us "an Enterlude." It is a mere dialogue in verse,—and was never acted, nor intended to be acted. Its design was merely to satirize in print the Romish Church and its doctrine of Transubstantiation. This is done very happily; and it brought the author, Dr. Luke, and the printers, Day & Seres, into considerable jeopardy at the period when the struggle between the Protestants and the Catholics was most embittered and severe. The author did not himself term it an interlude,—but headed it merely 'John Bon and Mast Person'; and it is only in quite modern days that it has been raised to the rank of a dramatic composition. It is true, that discussions between only two persons upon entertaining topics were sometimes performed as private theatrical amusements,—but such was certainly not the case with the dialogue before us. Mr. Black has too readily taken the word of the 'Biographia Dramatica,' and of a note at the end of Smeeton's reprint on this point; and as it is the only mistake that he has committed, it may easily obtain pardon. He is too industrious and too acute an antiquary to have omitted anything that could illustrate his subject;—and we quote from his preface the following curious anecdote relating to the tract,—which he found in Strype's 'Ecclesiastical Memorials,' vol. ii. p. 116.—

"There was one Luke, a Physician of London, who wrote divers books against the Papists in the end of King Henry's reign: for which he had been imprisoned in the Fleet. In the first year of King

Edward, he published one book, for which he was heavily cried out upon, by the Papists, to Sir John Gresham, the Lord Mayor. It was a Dialogue between John Bon and Master Parson; which two persons were brought in, reasoning together of the natural presence in the sacrament; but the author had concealed himself. It was *writ very facetiously, and sprinkled with wit*, severely biting now and then at the Priests. The book took much at the court, and the courtiers wore it in their pockets. But the Mayor had the book so illy represented unto him, that he was very angry, and sent for Day the printer of it, intending to make him discover the author, and to lay him in prison for printing the same. Underhill chanced to come in at this time, to desire aid of the Mayor to take Allen, before spoken of, who reported the King's death. The Mayor made Underhill dine with him; and speaking to him at dinner concerning this book, the maker whereof (he told him) he intended to search for, that so, as it seems, Underhill might declare at court the diligence of the Mayor in his office: he presently replied to him, that *that book was a good book*: adding, that he had himself one of them about him, and that there were many of them in the court. With that the Mayor desired to see it, and took it, and read a little, and *laughed heart, as it was both pithy and merry*. And by this seasonable interposition of Underhill, John Day the printer, sitting at a side-board, after dinner was bidden to go home; who had else gone to prison.

From whence Strype obtained this information, is not stated; but presuming that it is accurate, we see that the date of the original publication (it has none upon the title-page) was 1548, during the first year of Edward the Sixth,—when, as Mr. Black truly says, Protestantism was in the ascendant, and the rancour of its enemies was even more violent than when shortly afterwards they were themselves again in power. What then became of Dr. Luke, and what kind of treatment he received at the hands of the Roman Catholics nowhere appears. The editor discountenances the notion that the “zealots of the old religion” had anything to do with making copies of ‘John Bon and Master Parson’ rare; and attributes the scarcity of these rather to the popularity of the work than to the animosity of those whom it satirized. The probability is, however, that both causes co-operated in the result,—and that in proportion as the work was a favourite with the Protestants the Catholics would be desirous of buying up and destroying the copies. We know that they pursued this course with regard to many other books which they disliked; and the pungency and humour of the one before us, uncouth and rude as it is in many places, were not qualities likely to secure to it greater favour or impunity from them. This is the reason why we should like to ascertain the fate of its author;—who, we may safely presume, is not noticed in Fox or in any other historian of the Reformation, or such authority would have been adduced by so careful an editor as Mr. Black.

It is natural that Mr. Black should be disposed to give to the tract which he has edited as high a rank, and assign to it as much importance, as possible; but when he calls John Bon, the clownish interlocutor with his Parson, “the Piers Ploughman of the sixteenth century,” he is rating him considerably above his merits. John Bon is droll, severe and shrewd; but he has no sort of claim to be put on a level, in point of vigour, bitterness, and boldness, with the hero of Robert Langland. The comparison will not hold for a moment:—and we are to remember, besides, that Piers Ploughman belongs to a period long anterior to John Bon,—and that Langland wrote his satire at a time when, though the corruptions of the Romish Church were at their height, its power was also unlimited. Langland was an original poet,—like an inferior, though still a meritorious, versifier.

The work before us is not one from which, by reason of its subject, we can make extracts;—but it is well worth attention, as showing the mode in which in the middle of the Reformation the popular mind was worked upon in favour of those opinions which were ere long to become the national and established faith. Productions of the class before us have hitherto hardly received sufficient attention in this point of view; and we may be sure that, if it be true that among peasants such notions as are here expressed had at this date made their way, the populations of towns were yet more advanced towards the repudiation of Romish doctrines.—In this tract, the plain sense of the countryman is finally too much for the illogical subtlety of the parson; and after all, the sum of the argument of the latter is, that the dogmas and doctrines of the old religion were not fit subjects for discussion, and that it would be far better for everybody to take the word of the priest than to attempt to reason and examine.—Of Mr. Black's notes to this little publication we may say, that if they are few they are sufficient, and if brief in form they are full in information.

Lives of the Sovereigns of Russia, from Rurik to Nicholas; including a History of that Empire, from its Foundation to the Present Time. By George Fowler, Esq. Vol. I. Shoberl.

ALTHOUGH we agree with the writer of the volume before us in his estimate of the general importance of Russian history,—we can by no means coincide in his opinion, that “perhaps there is no other country in the world the annals of which offer to the reader's attention so many interesting events, resembling rather the incidents in an Oriental romance than a chronicle of real life.” Now, while Russian history has always seemed to us Oriental enough in its annals of the strife of might against right, in its tales of assassinations and wholesale massacres,—we have felt that the wild romance which sheds almost a redeeming light over many portions of Eastern history is an element altogether wanting here. The Grand Dukes and Tsars of Russia emulated, indeed, the tyrannical doings of the old despots of the East in a very approved manner; but the gorgeous magnificence of the latter—their wild and extravagant, yet often stupendous, plans—their “right royal” bounty—were unimitated by those who, after all, were little better than rude barbarians.

To the high antiquity which invests the history of the Eastern nations with a solemn grandeur Russia can lay no claim. When it is said, that “Kief founded the city of Kief, on the banks of the Dnieper, in the year 430,” the statement pretends to a minuteness which must be looked on as entirely apocryphal; and we think the strongest advocates for the antiquity of the Russian empire must be content with a thousand years, and date from the times of Rurik. Even long after his times, little of authentic history can be discovered; and although we are told that the Russians actually contemplated the pillage of Constantinople, and appeared with 80,000 men in the Bosphorus, it is far more likely that these belonged to the more Southern tribes. Indeed, so much obscurity hangs over the history of those barbarian nations who joined in the spoil of the Roman empire, eastern and western, that we might better attempt to determine the exact circumstances under which our own early Saxon kingdoms were founded than whether Slavonians, Varangians, or any other of the many barbarian tribes, were foremost in the work of plunder. Barbarians as the Russians were down to the times of Peter the Great, it is rather

amusing to find it remarked, that in four centuries their progress “from the savage state to comparative civilization was developed.” The instances given show that this civilization belonged only to the strangers who dwelt among them, especially the Greeks; and although it is added, that the influence of these “could not fail to improve the people,—expanding their minds and refining their manners,”—we can only ask, where are the proofs? The frequent incursions of the Tartar tribes, and their constant state of warfare, would probably have prevented a far more energetic people from making progress:—but energy the Russians have never possessed. Indeed, their most striking characteristic appears to be that strongly marked Orientalism which up to the present time severs them from the great European family, although dwellers in Europe for so many centuries.

Whatever may be said of the influence of Russia in European affairs, her influence in Asiatic has been far greater, and was developed far earlier. While Russia was scarcely known to the nations of Europe, the Venetian ambassador to Georgia found there in 1475 an Italian agent from the Grand Duke of Muscovy, Ivan the Great; and the conquest of the Tartar kingdom of Astrachan in 1553, by Ivan the Terrible, and the discovery of Siberia a few years later, brought the Russians into far closer relationship with the people of Asia than with those of Europe. Among the latter people our nation was foremost to enter into the diplomatic relations with “the frozen Muscovites;” and the adventurous Richard Chancellor was the first Englishman who visited Moscow, returning to astonish his countrymen with his tales—related with so much *naïveté* by Hakluyt—of the Oriental pomp and “barbaric gold and pearl” of the great Ivan Vassilivitch. It was from his son Ivan the Terrible that the Russia Company received its charter. The same monarch made request to Queen Elizabeth, through Sir Jerome Bowles, the Ambassador, for an English wife. This request was, however, refused, and Ivan married a Circassian princess. He opened negotiations with Persia, through the instrumentality of Jenkinson; and curiously enough, remembering the jealousy with which Russian influence in Georgia has been viewed by us of late, it was actually first promoted by an English ambassador.

Civil wars and wholesale massacres succeeded with scarcely any intermission during the following century; and amid ferocious struggles for power, and cruelties that would have disgraced the most savage people, Peter the Great was reared. There is certainly much in the circumstances of the early life of this extraordinary man to account for many revolting traits in his character; but still, when we remember the singular discipline to which he subjected himself,—above all, the ample opportunities which he procured for observing the beneficial effects of knowledge and freedom during his sojourn both in Holland and in England,—we cannot but feel surprised that he continued to the end of his life nothing better than a half-tamed savage. We are aware that this verdict will appear harsh to those who have contemplated Peter only in the glowing *éloges* of Voltaire; but to those who prefer the solid to the theatrical—above all, to those who have read the lesson, which all history teaches, that a people cannot be dragged into a precocious civilization, that national character cannot be wrought upon at the will of a ruler, however energetic, and we may even add, however well meaning, and that the slow growth of centuries cannot be compelled by royal mandate to spring up in a day,—this view of Peter will not seem too severe. As to Voltaire's remark on the “unparalleled fact” of a

Sovereign of five-and-twenty withdrawing from his kingdom "for the sole purpose of learning the art of government," all we can say is, that that art was never learnt by him. Little, too, had the monarch profited by the example of civilized communities, when, on his return from his long sojourn in Holland and in England, "with the wine-cup in one hand, and the axe in the other, he drank twenty successive draughts, and smote off twenty successive heads within the hour." Indeed, contempt for human life—in itself the greatest proof of barbarism, because the mighty value of that boon is uncomprehended by the savage mind—was a characteristic of the "Great Peter" as much as of the most ferocious Mohawk. In proof, witness even his "crowning" act, the foundation of St. Petersburg.—

"Here he concentrated all his mighty powers, in contempt of the opinion of others, and seemingly in contempt of Nature herself. The Boyars urged their objections to the barren and swampy soil, at the extremity of the gulf of Finland. Opposite are three islands, formed by the Neva, which were formerly occupied by a few fishermen's huts. These islands are now crowded with public buildings and large establishments. To effect this great work, forests were broken through, morasses dried up, and banks raised before the new city could be built; and it is computed that not less than 10,000 men perished in the morasses during these operations, where they could neither find food to eat nor shelter to cover them. They were pressed to the work from all parts of the Empire, even from Astracan and Kasan. More than 40,000 men were employed, consisting of Cossacs, Kalmucs, and Russian peasants. Their number was successively augmented by the prisoners of war, whom Peter turned to good account, not following the example of his rival Charles, who put many of his prisoners to death. More than forty thousand men were here employed, and in the short space of five months the fortress was completed, the plan of which the Tzar drew with his own hand, and under every difficulty of the want of tools. For wheel-barrows they substituted bags, or their shirts, in which to carry the earth; thus out of the midst of an almost inaccessible marsh sprang this fortress, surrounded with a wall of earth, having doors, and six bastions, defended by 300 pieces of cannon. * * * The opposition to building the new city was so great, that none but the most despot measures could have enabled him to carry it into effect. The people regarded it with terror, from the great mortality which it had already occasioned; they broke out in loud complaints of the Tzar's long absence from Moscow, and with the greatest difficulty did he induce the inhabitants to emigrate from thence to the bleak and dismal islands of the Neva."

But although Peter was able to overcome the wildness of nature, and build a city upon a marshy desert, he could not train up civilized men to inhabit it. How ludicrous are his rules for private assemblies, and how ill qualified he was to draw up such, the following extract proves.

"Of these drinking-bouts, the Tzar gave a memorable one at Peterhoff, where the guests were so plied with tokay that they were scarcely able to stand, although they were afterwards obliged to empty each a bowl, holding a full quart, received from the Tzarina's own hand, which prostrated them on the ground in the garden and elsewhere. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the guests were aroused, and brought to the Tzar in his pleasure-house, where he ordered them each to take a hatchet and to follow him; he led them into a wood of young trees, and fell to work most stoutly, setting the example to his guests, who, not having as yet recovered their senses, followed their Sovereign's example courageously during three hours, when the fumes of the wine had pretty well evaporated. The Tzar thanked them for their labour, and invited them to supper, when a double dose of the day's carouse sent them all to sleep, from which they were aroused at midnight by a favourite of the Tzar, who, standing at the bedside, plied them with wine and brandy till four in the morning. At eight o'clock, they were invited to breakfast; but,

instead of tea and coffee, they were again pestered with large cups of brandy. Such is the description given of the royal hospitality of Russia in those days by one of the guests present."

What shall we say to such civilization as this, too, even in the Tzar's presence? It is related by an eye-witness.—

"As soon as one sits down, one is obliged to drink a cup of brandy, after which they ply you with great glasses of adulterated tokay, and other vitiated wines, and between whiles, a bumper of the strongest English beer, by which mixture of liquors every one of the guests is fuddled before the soup is served up. The company being in this condition make such a noise, racket, and hallooing, that it is impossible to hear one another, or even to hear the music, which is playing in the next room, consisting of a sort of trumpets, and cornets, for the Tzar hates violins, and with this revelling noise and uproar the Tzar is extremely diverted, particularly if the guests fall to boxing and get bloody noses. Formerly the company had no napkins given them, but instead of it they had a piece of very coarse linen given them by a servant, who brought a whole piece under his arm, and cut off half an ell for every person, which they are at liberty to carry home with them, for it had been observed that these pilfering guests used sometimes to pocket the napkins; but at present two or three Russians must make shift with but one napkin, which they pull and haul for, like hungry dogs for a bone. Each person of the company has but one plate during dinner, so if some Russian does not care to mix the sauces of the different dishes together, he pours the soup that is left in his plate, either into the dish or into his neighbour's plate, or even under the table, after which he licks his plate clean with his finger, and last of all, wipes it with the table-cloth."

That Peter did great things for Russia cannot be denied; but they were, after all, great things in a theatrical point of view,—things to be wondered at rather than approved. It is to this very circumstance that Peter the Great owes his celebrity: but surely it is full time that a monarch who did so little for the real welfare of his people—who left them as he found them, without a single political right, a mere heirloom, like a given amount of goods and chattels, to his successor,—should take a lower place than that which the vulgar love of what is strange and striking has assigned to him.

The volume before us consists for the most part of the life of Peter,—and concludes with a rather interesting chapter on the established religion of Russia, and its curious ceremonies. The work, so far, appears to be carefully written as to facts; but in the style it is strangely careless,—so much so that but for the English name of the author we should almost have believed it to have been written by a foreigner. The author assures us in his preface, that in addition to consulting numerous printed works on the subject, and to personal observations of the country and the people, he has "derived much information from inedited manuscripts." Now, these he should at least have specified,—since they may be either most valuable or most worthless according to their authenticity. It is, we know, too much the fashion now-a-days to write history without any reference to authorities, or at most with a very cursory reference. But although a third of the page burdened with foot notes, as was formerly the case, may not have so neat an appearance,—still, "the historic page" unillustrated by a single reference always suggests to us a romance rather than a history.

Selection from the Dramatic Works of William T. Moncrieff, chosen for their extreme Popularity from between two and three hundred Dramas, &c. &c. 3 vols. Lacy.

THESE volumes are prefaced by a personal appeal which renders our dealing with them in

the critical sense more than ordinarily painful. There is no charter so righteously drawn as to provide against all possible abuse and injustice,—and probably no Charter-House of which the benevolence is so wisely contrived that no one among its recipients shall feel wounded even while assisted thereby. This condition of wounded feeling, the Preface informs us, in Mr. Moncrieff's case under the bond of Poor-Brotherhood. His peculiar trial of blindness renders, it seems, peculiar ministrations necessary to him which do not seem to come within the code and canon of Carthusian rule:—and to help to procure himself these he has resorted to the publication of the present volumes.

Our sympathies with one in suffering would have made us gladly end our notice here:—but there are considerations of duty which must at times overrule even our sorrow over sorrow. It is impossible for us to run our eye over these records of a past school of drama every way vicious—in the face of certain indications which threaten its revival—and to leave our duty of denunciation and protest undischarged. We are bound in faith to those who trust us, under any circumstances to declare that three-fourths of these dramas were not worth reprinting,—and that the reprint of some is a literary offence.

Let us hear the author's own *Pæan* by way of head and front to 'Tom and Jerry':—a production which corrupted the population as much as it lowered the drama,—and filled the Police Offices in proportion as it crowded the Gallery and Pit.—

"From the popularity of the subject, the novelty and acknowledged truth of the various scenes comprised in it, the inimitable manner in which it was originally acted, and the beauty of the music I fortunately selected, this piece obtained a popularity, and excited a sensation, totally unprecedented in Theatrical History; from the highest to the lowest, all classes were alike anxious to witness its representation; dukes and dustmen were equally interested in its performance, and peers might be seen mobbing it with apprentices to obtain an admission. Seats were sold for weeks before they could be occupied; every theatre in the United Kingdom, and even in the United States, enriched its coffers by performing it; and the smallest tythe portion of its profits would for ever have rendered it unnecessary for its author to have troubled the public with any further productions of his muse. It established the fortunes of most of the actors engaged in its representation, and gave birth to several newspapers, more than one of which are even now in existence. The success of the 'Beggars' Opera,' the 'Castle Spectre,' and 'Pizarro,' sunk into the shade before it. In the furor of its popularity, persons have been known to travel post from the furthest part of the kingdom to see it; and five guineas have been offered in an evening for a single seat. Its language became the language of the day; drawing rooms were turned into *Chaffing Cribbs*, and rank and beauty learnt its patter slang."

These volumes record a series of dramatic "sensations" no less potent achieved by 'The Scamps of London,' 'The Heart of London,' 'Don Giovanni in London,' and other similar productions, which it is not our fault, but their author's, if we recollect. The disparagement brought by such pieces on the theatre as a place of amusement might have been overlooked—so far as these are matters of the past—had it not fallen to our lot to write the tale of dramatic decay in England. The flimsy pleas and preachments in defence of what is abominable in Art and deleterious in morals—the pressing into the service a few humorous paradoxes vented by *Elia* on a far different argument—the appeal to Shakspeare's dealing with crime in the castle warrant for Mr. Moncrieff's crime in the night-cellar,—these things cannot be passed over, whatever be the circumstances of the writer, in view of the decline which such and similar mon-

anecdotes have helped, and are helping, to bring on the stage. Unhappily, the offence and defence are not so obsolete, that they may be laid away among the rubbish of the past, as modes in which the London writer now takes no part and the London apprentice no pleasure. It is true, the taste of our time is less extensively corrupt than was that of Mr. Moncrieff's. The Sons of Slang are compelled now by a better general morality to do what the children of John Wesley were taught to do—"when they cried, twery softly:"—but they have a hearing yet. It was curious the other day to observe the tribute to the time paid in the little play-bill homily heading the announcement of the revival of the old, original 'Jack Sheppard.' It was there asserted, by way of apology for the vicious reproduction, that this "Jack" had never been that wicked and noxious "Jack" so well known to magistrates and police officers. That Jack, we are told, was a caricatured creature in a pirated play, wherein the lessons to be derived from the fate of John the malefactor were aggravated and wrested so as to take the form of invitations held out by Jack "the flash companion." This is somewhat rueful special pleading:—made positively farcical by the last clause of the apology, wherein the anxious *Strand* people are sought to be assured that the original moral piece had been minutely revised on its revival, with a view to its purification, elevation, and emendation—and that *now*, the adventures, escapes, and Tyburn procession of the jail-bird and prison-breaker may be partaken of as an improving entertainment, warranted altogether harmless!

Besides the matter which has forced from us the above comment, we should add, however, that these volumes contain a few stock pieces, such as 'Monsieur Mallet' and 'Monsieur Tonson,'—one or two spectacle pieces, derived from French *ballets*,—and a five-act comedy 'The Peer and the Peasant.'—Some of the Prefaces may be found useful to the future dramatic historian, as verifying names and dates, and other green-room facts:—but they contain little which would bear being detached in extract.

The Germania of Tacitus; with Ethnological Dissertations and Notes. By R. G. Latham, M.D. Taylor, Walton & Co.

It will be evident from the above description of the work before us and from the name of its author, that it differs materially from ordinary editions of the ancient classics. It is neither a critical, nor a college, nor a school edition. Still less is it popular, in the sense of being easy for the uneducated million to read with interest. Many a classical scholar—especially if in the habit of confining his attention to mere language and style, to the neglect of the subject-matter—might fail to appreciate it aright, though quite able to construe the text of Tacitus. None can enter into the drift of it but those who are accustomed to study classics in a comprehensive and philosophical spirit; who—besides being anxious to settle the genuine text, ascertain the true meaning, mark the peculiarities of construction, and make themselves familiar with the style of each author—have made it a practice to pursue the historical, geographical, archaeological or other inquiries connected with what they are reading. Its distinguishing feature is the great prominence given in it to ethnological investigations—matters which are passed over by other editors of the classics,—and for a very good reason, because they are rarely competent to do justice to them. The extent of scholarship requisite for the preparation of a good text—accompanied by an apparatus of various readings, apt illustrations and superior

annotations—is as much as can be reasonably expected from one man, without adding a science so abstruse and comprehensive as ethnology. It is, however, the students of this science whom Dr. Latham has had more particularly in view in the composition of his present work. He speaks of it as "rather a commentary upon the geographical part of the 'Germania,' than on the 'Germania' itself—the purely descriptive part relating to the customs of the early Germans being passed over almost *sicco pede*." But even the geographical questions are discussed not so much for their own sake as on account of their bearing upon, what he terms, "the classificational portion of the ethnology" of ancient Germany. This is in fact the real subject of the book. So completely is this the case, that Dr. Latham himself tells us, the question whether it should appear in its present form or as a translation of Zeuss's 'Die Deutschen und Die Nachbarstämme' was a mere matter of convenience. The text of Tacitus, with the notes on it, forms the heart of the volume; but this text is evidently chosen because of its fitness to serve as a sort of peg on which to hang ethnological disquisitions. In the Prolegomena and Epilegomena, which together make up two-thirds of the whole, as well as in the notes, the author has managed to convey at full length the views which he entertains on the origin and early distribution of those tribes which are naturally regarded by the English ethnologist with peculiar interest.

The task which Dr. Latham has undertaken is one of no ordinary difficulty. Our information with regard to the numerous tribes mentioned in the 'Germany' of Tacitus is but slender. The witnesses are few in number, have generally little to say, do not always agree with each other, and are rarely themselves sufficiently well informed to avoid mistakes. Even Tacitus—who is on all accounts the most worthy of implicit confidence—is charged by Dr. Latham with inaccuracies. Some may think this borders on presumption:—to such we commend what Dr. Latham says in reference to this point.—

"Implicit and uncritical belief is not always the highest tribute of respect. So far from finding any morbid feeling of pleasure in taking exceptions to the statements of a great writer like Tacitus, I have no hesitation in saying, that the more I have criticised, the more I have found to admire. So numerous are the cases where an unscrutinizing adoption of his statements only mystifies us! Whereas the adoption of the slightest amount of fallibility gives us an important fact. * * * These and similar considerations show that such inaccuracies as we find in Tacitus are, so far from subtracting from his value as an authority, or from the respect due to his testimony, that they enhance his credit. Such as occur could hardly have been avoided; and the only wonder is that there are so few of them."

As to Dr. Latham's high qualifications for exercising with advantage the right of censorship over Tacitus himself in ethnological matters, there cannot be a doubt. He has long pursued investigations of this sort with a zeal and success peculiarly his own; as his admirable treatises on them abundantly testify,—not to mention his various works on the English language. We question whether any other writer is so capable of filling up the void created by the death of Dr. Prichard, the most eminent of English ethnologists. Dr. Latham seems to have caught something of that great philosopher's deep interest in this comparatively infant science, to be emulating his depth and variety of knowledge, and to exhibit a similar patience in the investigation of difficult points. His speculations are bold, but not rash. He is decided, without being dogmatic in his opinions. If he ventures to differ from high authorities,

he takes care to present the reader with a complete statement of the arguments on both sides, that he may form his own opinion on the subject. Nor does he show any reluctance to pay them all due honour, even though often constrained to oppose their theories. Of Zeuss's learned work he says,—"To it I am under the same obligations as the learner of a language is to his grammar, his lexicon, or his text-book; and it is not saying too much to add that nineteen out of twenty of the references and quotations are Zeuss's." The same, he tells us, is true of Grimm and Niebuhr in a less degree. All three are attacked "almost wholly by means of their own weapons."

It is impossible within our limits to give anything like a complete view of this elaborate work; nor would it be acceptable to the general reader if we could. We must therefore content ourselves with dipping into it here and there, for the sake rather of partially exhibiting the author's method of philosophizing than of stating in a connected form the results at which he has arrived. The subjoined observations on "the value of language as a test of ethnological relationship" appear to us worthy of attention.—

"It would be an undue exaggeration of the importance of the philological method to say, that it should supersede all others, and that the degrees of similarity in language exactly coincided with the degrees of ethnological relationship. They are *primæ facie* evidence of this—strong *primæ facie* evidence—but nothing more. Taking the world at large, there are numerous well-known and extreme instances of a native language having been unlearned, and a foreign one adopted in its stead; e.g., the Blacks of St. Domingo speak French and Spanish. But, not to go so far, no man believes that every inhabitant of the British Principality who speaks English, to the exclusion of Welsh, is an Anglo-Saxon in blood and pedigree as he is in tongue. Neither does he think this in respect to his Scotch and Irish fellow citizens. Indeed, every man who, being born of parents of different nations, speaks only one language, is more national in his speech than he is in his origin. Within the limits of Germany itself this distinction is not only well illustrated, but it must necessarily be borne in mind. What is the history of our own language? Throughout the whole length and breadth of continental Germany there is not only no dialect that can be called English, but—undeniably as our Anglo-Saxon mother-tongue was German in origin—there is no dialect which can be said to have originated in the same source; no descendant of the Angle form of speech. The same applies to the allied dialect of the Old Saxons. Where that was once spoken, Platt-Deutsch and High German are now the exclusive idioms; no descendants from anything Saxon, but descendants from members of the Proper German groups. Extinct as are these two dialects, it is by no means reasonable to imagine a similar extinction of Anglo-Saxon and Old Saxon blood. Difficult as the traces of it are to detect, they may fairly be supposed to exist. What applies to the Anglo-Saxon and the Old-Saxon applies to the Mæso-Gothic also. Though no existing dialect can be traced to it, it cannot be doubted but that the blood of the ancestors of the Ostro-Goths and Visi-Goths must run in the veins of some southern Germans—few or many, as the case may be. Hence the evidence of language is *primæ facie* evidence only. Such is the measure of its *absolute* value—a measure which subtracts from its importance. But what if language be the *only* test we have; or, if not the only one, the one whose value transcends that of all the rest put together. In such a case, it regains its importance; its *relative* value being thus heightened. And such is the fact. No differences of physical appearance, intellectual habits, or moral characteristics will give us the same elements of classification that we find in the study of the Germanic languages and dialects. They may, perhaps, have done so once, when there was a variety of Pagan creeds and several self-evolved and, consequently, characteristic laws. But they do not do

so now. A value they have, but that value is a subordinate one."

Dr. Latham is careful to distinguish between the name assumed by a nation and that which is applied to it by others.—

"The natives of the British Principality are called by the English *Welsh*. They call themselves *Kymry*. The natives of the rest of South Britain call themselves *English*. Their Welsh (Kymry) neighbours call them *Sassenach* = Saxons. So do the Scotch and Irish Gaels. So do the Mankmen of the Isle of Man. The Germans call themselves *Deutsche*. The English call no one but the people of Holland *Dutch*. They call the other allied families *Germans*. The people of Finland call themselves *Quains*. Most of their neighbours call them *Finns*. The Laplanders call themselves *Sáme* (*Sáme*). The Norwegians call them *Finns*. *Finmark* means Lapmark. The hill-tribes of India have no collective name at all. Each tribe has its separate denomination. The collective names *Khond*, *Bhil*, *Sár*, &c., are all Hindu. The Slavonians vary the name with the nation. The Germans they call *Niemcy*, the Finns *Tshád*. The Germans call all Slavonians *Wends*. So Slavonian calls himself so. This list of the difference between native and foreign designations might be greatly extended. The present instances merely illustrate the extent to which the difference occurs. In ancient writers we are seldom sure of the name applied to a given population being *native*. We should rather look for it in the language of the population that supplied the information. From which it follows that we can rarely assume that any name belongs to the language of the population to which it applies; and this creates a difficulty too often overlooked."

This important distinction is often turned to good account in the course of the work. In Dr. Latham's hands it becomes a very powerful instrument of investigation:—as will appear from our next extract, which will be on other accounts interesting to the student of etymology.—

"The English word *Germany* is the translation of the Latin word *Germania*. A truism so evident, apparently, requires no pointing out; nevertheless, the series of considerations to which it gives rise are of importance. In the first place, *Germany* is not the name by which the German designates his own country. He calls himself *Deutsche*, and his country *Deutsch-land*. Neither is it the name by which a Frenchman designates *Germany*. He calls it *Allemagne*. Whence the difference? The different languages take the different names for one and the same country from different sources. The German term *Deutsche* is an adjective; the earlier form of the word being *diutisc*. Here the *-ic* is the same as the *-ish* in words like *self-ish*. *Diut*, on the other hand, means *people*, or *nation*. Hence, *diut-ic* is to *diut*, as *popularis* is to *populus*. This adjective was first applied to the language; and served to distinguish the *popular*, *national*, *native*, or *vulgar* tongue of the populations to which it belonged from the Latin. It first appears in documents of the ninth century.

* * Sometimes this adjective means *heathen*; in which case it applies to religion and is opposed to *Christian*. Oftener it means *intelligible*, or *vernacular*, and applies to language; in which case it is opposed to *Latin*. The particular Gothic dialect to which it was first applied, was the German of the Middle Rhine. Here the forms are various:—*theodisca*, *thiudisca*, *theudisca*, *tendiisca*, *teutisca*. When we reach parts less in contact with the Latin language of Rome, its use is rarer. Even the Germans of the Rhine frequently use the equivalent term *Alemannic* and *Francic*: whilst the Saxons and Scandinavians never seem to have recognized the word at all. Hence it is only the Germans of *Germany* that are *Theot-isci*, or *Deut-sche*. We of England, on the other hand, apply it only to the *Dutch* of Holland. Hitherto the term is, to a certain degree, one of disparagement; meaning *non-Roman*, or *vulgar*. It soon, however, changes its character; and in an Old High German gloss—*uncadiuti* (*ungideuti*)=*un-Dutch* is explained by *barbarus*. All that is not German, has now become in the eyes of the *Deut-sche*, what all that was other than *Roman* was before. The standard has changed.

Barbarism is measured by its departure from what is *Deut-sch*; in other words, the term has become so little derogatory as to have become national. Nevertheless, originally *Deutsche*=*vulgare*. From the two facts of *Germania* being no native name, and *Deutsche* being one of late origin, we arrive at an inference of great practical importance in ethnological criticism, *viz.*, that, although the Romans and the Gauls knew the populations beyond the Rhine by a common collective term, no such common collective term seems to have been used by the Germans themselves. They had *none*. Each tribe had its own designation; or, at most, each kingdom or confederation. Only when the question as to what was common to the whole country in opposition to what was *Roman* or *Gallie*, became a great practical fact, did a general ethnological term arise; and this was not *German*, but *Dutch*. This is a common phenomenon. In Hindostan we hear of the wilder mountaineers of Orissa and the Mahratta country under the names of *Kól* and *Khond*; and this is a collective term. But it is only this in the mouth of a Hindu, or Englishman. Amongst themselves the separate names of the different tribes is all that is current. From this it follows that *Germania* being a non-Germanic term, its claims to absolute ethnological accuracy are reduced. It is like the term *Gallia*; which was so far from containing nothing but Gallic Kelts (or, changing the expression, Celtic Gauls), that it included the *Iberic* populations of Aquitania, which were as unlike the true Gaul as a Basque of the Pyrenees is unlike a Welchman. Hence, whenever we are disposed to doubt whether so valuable a writer as Tacitus could have committed the error of making any particular non-Germanic tribe German, we must remember that so well-informed an observer as Cæsar makes the Aquitani, Gallic. It is also important to remember that, like *high* as opposed to *low*, *rich* to *poor*, &c., the word *Deut-sch* was originally a correlative term, *i.e.* it denoted something which was *popular*, *vulgar*, *national*, *unlearned*, to something which was not. Hence, it could have had no existence until the relations between the learned and lettered language of Rome, and the comparatively unlearned and unlettered *vulgar* tongue of the Franks and Alemanni had developed some notable points of contrast. *Deut-sche* as a name for *Germans*, in the sense in which it occurs in the ninth century, was an impossibility in the first, or second. This is not sufficiently considered. Many believe that the *Teut*, in *Teutones*, is the *deut*, in *deut-sch*. To be this exactly is impossible."

We are obliged to omit Dr. Latham's views in relation to the Suevi, Teutones and Cimbri, Goths, Saxons, and other tribes.—On the subject of the connexion between certain European languages and the Sanskrit with its allied forms, he stands alone among philologists; but for his views on this subject also we must refer to the book itself.—Whatever differences of opinion may exist with regard to some of Dr. Latham's conclusions, every competent reader will admire the learning and philosophy with which his present work abounds.

The Poetical Remains of William Sidney Walker, formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Edited, with a Memoir of the Author, by the Rev. J. Moultrie, M.A. Parker & Son.

THE "poetical remains" here given add another volume to that shelf of the library of English verse which is already marked by the names of Trench, Strong, Alford, Harston, the author of the biography before us, and other gracious and thoughtful minor poets. But the story of Mr. Walker's life seems hardly worth the telling, even when illustrated as it is here by a copious selection from those familiar letters which always possess a certain interest for readers who make character their study. "The life of William Sidney Walker," Mr. Moultrie confesses in his Preface, "was almost as uneventful as it was unhappy; * * while the causes which produced his unhappiness and prevented or marred the full development and exercise of his intellectual

powers, are of a kind which it is almost impossible to render intelligible to the mind of the general reader."—For the public, a page might have sufficed to tell that Mr. Walker was one of that remarkable knot of young men assembled some thirty years ago at Cambridge, and collectively known to the world as the writers of *Knight's Quarterly Magazine*. Subsequently, a fair number from among their company, by taking part in the business of life, made their real names more famous than they had made *Reginald*, *Hamilton*, *Peregrine*, *Vivian*, and the other romantic signatures assumed in the wantonness of boyish fancy.—Mr. Walker, however, at an early period shrank away into a corner; and though he was followed thither by the love and active kindness of his old comrades, he appears to have resigned himself to failure, obscurity, narrow circumstances, &c. with an almost morbid acquiescence which may have done its part in slowly and drearily extinguishing the flame of life. That he merited and might have won for himself a brighter fate, his remains warrant us in believing. The following should take a permanent place among the gentle poetry of the affections.

Go forth to thine appointed rest
Beyond the broad sea-foam;
Go forth, our fairest and our best,
To thy far island-home!
With him, thy youthful heart's approved,
Thy mate for many a year beloved,
In thy full matron bloom
Go forth, to act, as fate commands,
Thy part of life in other lands.
Kind thoughts attend thee, from the place
Where thou hast been so long
A daily sight, a household face,
A mate in work and song;
A flower to cheer, a lamp to shed
Soft light beside the sick one's bed:
To that beloved throng
Each act of daily life shall be
A mute remembrancer of thee.
Full well we know, where'er thy lot,
Thou canst not be alone;
For Love, in earth's unkindest spot,
Will find, or make, its own;
And from the green and living heart
New friendships still, like buds, will start:
But yet, wherever thrown,
No ties can cling around thy mind
So close as those thou leav'st behind.
And oft, while gazing on the sea
That girds thy lonely isle,
Shall faithful memory bring to thee
The home so loved erewhile:
Its lightsome rooms, its pleasant bowers,
The children, that like opening flowers
Grew up beneath thy smile;
The hearts, that shared from earliest years
Thy joys and griefs, thy hopes and fears.
The sister's brow, so blithe of yore,
With early care impressed;
And she, whose failing eyes no more
Upon her child may rest;
And kindred forms, and they who eyed
Thy beauty with a brother's pride;
And friends beloved the best,
The kind, the joyous, the sincere,
Shall to thine inward sight appear.
And they, whose dying looks on thee
In grief and love were cast,—
The leaves, from off our household tree
Swept by the varying blast,—
Oft, in the mystery of sleep,
Shall Love evoke them from the deep
Of the unfathomed Past,
And Fancy gather round thy bed
The spirits of the gentle Dead.
Farewell! if on this parting day
Remorseful thoughts invade
One heart, for blessings east away,
And fondness ill repaid:—let them rest
Within the stillness of the breast;
Be thy remembrance made
A home, where chattering thoughts may dwell:—
My own true sister, fare thee well!

Mr. Walker's strength is said by Mr. Moultrie to have lain in philology and philosophical criticism. The readers of the *Athenæum* will recollect that when Mr. Collier's announcement of his curious annotated copy of Shakespeare excited so much interest a few months ago, we were, by a Correspondent, apprised of the existence of a body of notes, readings, and sug-

gestions by Mr. Walker, which were represented to be ingenious and valuable in no common degree. Mr. Moultrie tells us that these are now "in the hands of W. N. Lettsom, Esq., the recent and accomplished translator of the 'Niebelungen-lied,' who has kindly undertaken the laborious and difficult task of editing them." We may therefore possibly, at no distant period, meet the ill-starred man of talent on ground which will yield him a more substantial reputation than any which is likely to be derived from the contents of the present volume.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Lost Inheritance: a Novel. 3 vols.—This is a gentle, agreeable, elegantly written story,—so free from folly, exaggeration and bombast as to be more than ordinarily grateful just now. This said, however, the reviewer has little to add: since the author's effects are made by continuous narration and description—and not by violent surprises, brilliant aphorisms, or highly-wrought dialogue. The heart-story of Marion Harcourt, and the slow cure (not without its relapses) wrought on the suspicious cynical man by the truthful, sensible, and not insensible, girl—could not have been shown in shorter compass:—though even so slight a description as the above will satisfy the reader that a tale having such a plot will bear neither disquisition nor analysis to any extent. The other principal characters—Adeline, her gallant lover Fred. Vernon, and Murray the inconstant man, who loves twenty ladies in turn, yet seems to take the marriage of each or of all the score personally to heart,—are nicely touched. In the taste of its treatment, 'The Lost Inheritance' reminds us a little of the novels by the author of 'The History of a Flirt.' What, by the way, has happened to silence for so long a time that pleasant and sensible writer?

Blondelle: a Story of the Day.—This tale is dedicated to Vanadis—a name never before met with by us so far as we recollect,—and is told in language adapted we presume to the capacity and country of Vanadis, wherever the latter may be. It is not the language of Belgravia,—nor the English of "Stratford atte Bowe,"—nor the north country dialect of Blackburn, Bolton and Burnley, immortalized by *Tim Bobbin*; but a compound of fustian and affectation calculated to strike with wonder even persons as well inured as ourselves to "everything that pretty is." Blondelle is a victim, the daughter of a profligate, compelled to marry a rake when she loves a young diplomatist. The sequel is thus announced in what we may take leave to call the style *à la Vanadis*.—"Madam, like ourselves, you have seen more than once in your life-time a girl daily consuming away till nought has been left, and she falls into the grave that has been for months preparing for her."—How the *nothing* that is left should contrive to fall into the grave which has been so long in digging is a mystery the key to which is probably in the keeping of Vanadis. At any rate it is not in ours. Blondelle has a sister Emmeline, whose fortune is a trifle less miserable:—also about as gratuitously wicked a mother as we have often met, even in the strange novels of this present year.

The Notice to Quit, cum the Invitation. By Thomas Mullenger.—This is an oppressive—not to say a painful—little book:—written, so far as we can read the riddle, under the excitement of a sore heart and a sense of wrong. In spite of the example of 'English Bards and Scotch Reviewers,' which may be quoted against us as an exception, hate and grievance are bad arguments for authorship. So utterly dark and unintelligible is the greater portion of this production, that it is possible we may have been entirely deceived as to its real import: and that it may be merely another of those puzzles put forth to tempt readers at a period when (the groaners tell us) people are increasingly averse to read anything which shall give them any trouble. There are some appendical pages of detached thoughts and aphorisms; a few of which, as arguing originality of conceit, if not precisely originality of thought, may be given.—

"Man often complains, to make privilege at par, and pride at premium."

"A man who wants a friend seldom deserves one; but he who waits till he finds one worthy, would seldom do a good act."

"The man is both fool and knave who must hate somebody; for he does it without pleasure or profit."

"Sometimes not to believe is the true faith; if you believe a man wrong, prove him so."

—To conclude:—Though few will read this book, we can imagine its writer producing one which the many ought to read.

The Cyclopædia of Anecdotes of Literature and the Fine Arts, containing a copious and choice Selection of Anecdotes of the various forms of Literature, of the Arts, of Architecture, Engravings, Music, Poetry, Painting and Sculpture, and of the most celebrated Literary Characters and Artists of different Countries and Ages, &c. By Kazlitt Arvine, A.M., Author of 'The Cyclopædia of Moral and Religious Anecdotes.' With numerous Illustrations.—This will be found by all manner of literary men and artists an exceedingly amusing commonplace—or parlour-window—book. There is an American tone in it, moreover, for which we like it none the less. Some of the anecdotes are a trifle apocryphal, being derived from sources the authenticity of which could not be tested by the compiler;—others relate with rather a startling intimacy to our own "homes and haunts," being derived not merely from the publication of American "Pencilers," such as Miss Sedgwick, Mr. N. P. Willis, and such well-known travellers, but, apparently, from private correspondence, journals, &c. &c. The purely literary matter, even, has the tinge of a sky beyond the horizon of our Southey's and Disraeli's who have loved to accumulate curiosities. We do not recollect, for instance, to have met with the following on this side of the water.—

"Here is the motto of a book called the New England Psalm Singer or American Chorister, by William Billings, a native of Boston, in New England. The book was published in 1770.—

O, praise the Lord with one consent,
And in this grand design,
Let Britain and the Colonies
Unanimously join!"

By the quality no less than by the fullness and versatility of this collection have we again been led to speculate hopefully on the intense curiosity which prevails in the New World with regard to all manner of works of art and imagination, and to the thoughts and lives of those who produce them. This thick and rather costly book is, after its kind, a manifestation as suggestive as the classes of talking ladies in Boston who assembled to be instructed by Margaret Fuller [see *ante*, p. 160] concerning the "idea of Jupiter," the "idea of Bacchus," and the like Arcadian and classical topics.

The Garden, the Grove, and the Field: a Garland of the Months. By Mary Milner.—Books like these seem to enjoy the right prescriptive of being pleasant reading. We hardly recollect one which we have left without feeling bettered and freshened by turning over its pages. This, like most of the class, is garnished with the introduction of devotional verse; and we like it none the less because many of the quotations are from authors not generally known. It may be described as a pleasant summer gift-book.

The Life of Dr. John Reid. By George Wilson, M.D.—Although Dr. Reid's life was too exclusively scientific and unobtrusive to attract general attention,—nevertheless this sketch of it by a friend—and one capable of appreciating the value of his labours—will prove an acceptable memento to a large circle of friends. Dr. John Reid was early destined for the medical profession; and during the period of his student life at Edinburgh he distinguished himself for his industry and his stern love of truth. These qualities early engendered that confidence which obtained for him appointment to first one medical office and then another,—until at length he became a teacher in one of the extra-collegiate medical schools in Edinburgh. He was afterwards chosen as Chandos Professor of Anatomy and Medicine in the University of St. Andrews. This appointment he held only a few years:—as in the midst of his days and his usefulness he was seized with one of those dreadful maladies

for which the medical art has no cure,—and which, after great suffering, terminated his existence at the early age of forty. Though, as we have said, Dr. Reid's labours were too exclusively physiological to give them a very general interest, Dr. Wilson has done his best in this work to make them understood and appreciated by all such readers as delight to follow the footsteps of the philosopher into the more recondite paths of research.—One of the most interesting phases of Dr. Reid's life was, the entire change of character which took place in him from the time when the thought first struck him that his disease was necessarily fatal. Without diminishing his ardour in the pursuit of science, his love of it became more pure, and the whole turn of his life partook of that elevated character which the continued prospect of a final leave of the world would be likely to produce.—We do not agree in all points with the editor's estimate of the character of Dr. Reid,—but we can highly commend the manner and spirit of his work. We have seldom taken up a biography with elements of interest so confined that has been more readable.

A Journal of the Russian Campaign of 1812. Translated from the French of Lieut.-General De Fezensac, with an Introductory Notice by Col. W. Knollys, Scots Fusilier Guards.—General De Fezensac, the author of this Journal, was first an aide-de-camp to Berthier, the Major-General of the grand army of Napoleon during the Russian campaign,—and afterwards colonel of a regiment of infantry, in which latter capacity he earned the favourable notice of Marshal Ney.—He had therefore ample opportunities for observing the leading incidents of the campaign, and for seeing the conduct of the Emperor and of those about him. The journal, which sketches, first the invasion of Russia, then the stay at Moscow, and lastly the disastrous retreat, does not pretend to be a history,—but only a brief record such as might interest the author's friends and military men in general. As a military journal it attracted the attention of Col. Knollys,—whose opinion of it is, that it is "the record of a good soldier's duties and a good man's feelings." The translation was undertaken by the colonel, as he informs Prince Albert in a prefatory note, "with the sole view of giving it a place in the non-commissioned officers' and privates' libraries" of His Royal Highness's regiment of the Fusilier Guards. To elucidate the translation and make it more generally interesting, Col. Knollys has prefixed an Introduction as long as the work itself. Both the Introduction and the Journal are written in a frank and clear manner, and they occasionally contain passages interesting to the ordinary reader:—but on the whole they are most suitable for military readers, or for those amateurs of strategy who like to trace the movements of armies on the map.

Journal of a Tour in Ceylon and India. By Joshua Russell.—In the month of May 1850, the committee of the Baptist Missionary Society passed a resolution requesting the Rev. Mr. Russell and the Rev. Mr. Leechman to visit the Society's missionary stations in Ceylon and India. The two ministers left England in August 1850, performed their task, and returned in July 1851. The present volume is the result. It is written by Mr. Russell; and gives details respecting the various stations visited by himself and his colleague, with sketches of Buddhism, Brahminism, and India generally, from the Baptist Missionary point of view.

Matter and Force: an Analytical and Synthetical Essay on Physical Causation; in which the Principal Phenomena and Laws of Chemistry, Electricity, and Heat are derived mathematically from an Uniform Volition, and the Preservation of the Universe demonstrated to be contingent on the incessant Exercise of a Moral Power. By Richard Laming.—We have given the entire title of this book,—which explains, we suppose, much more clearly than we can, its purpose. We have carefully gone over its pages, and endeavoured to extract some meaning from them; but its strange mixture of Physics and Metaphysics is to us entirely bewildering. Electricity appears to be the favoured force, or the moral power, by which matter is sustained. If there is any meaning in the book

beyond this,—it is beyond any ordinary comprehension.

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Taylor's (Dr.) Medical Jurisprudence, 4th edit. 12mo. 12s. 6d. cl.

HOW PUBLIC DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE ARRANGED.

IN accordance with our intention expressed in the *Athenæum* of the 3rd of June [*ante*, p. 722], we proceed to consider the principles which, in our view, ought to govern the regulation and arrangement of the vast and daily increasing store of public documents now turned over to the care of the Master of the Rolls, and intended to be deposited in what Sir Francis Palgrave terms "the strong box of the Empire,"—that is, in the New Public Record Office. The subject is one of no little importance. It involves questions upon which depend loss of national credit, loss of valuable time, great loss of money, the continued danger of many of our public documents arising from their present improper custody, and a disregard of a multitude of literary interests which are connected with the proper keeping of these papers,—papers which, as Sir Francis Palgrave has remarked, are the only true foundation of all real history, whether of families, of localities, or of nations.

Our public documents are of an almost infinite variety of kinds. But they are susceptible of division into two great classes. These are—I. Public Records; and II. State Papers. We will first consider our PUBLIC RECORDS. A "Record" signifies a memorial. In ordinary language, the word is frequently applied to describe any and every account of a transaction of past times; but in its strict meaning a "Record" is such an account of a transaction as, having passed through certain prescribed legal formalities, has thereby had its authenticity absolutely determined,—so determined that, in the estimation of the law, that account constitutes a conclusive and unimpeachable "record," memorial, and evidence of the transaction in question. Documents of this kind are prepared by certain officers, are authenticated by another set of officers, and are finally deposited with and are kept by a third set of officers. The law does everything in its power to secure their accuracy in the first instance, and to preserve them untouched and inviolate for ever afterwards.

The contents of these our true "Records" are as multifarious as can be conceived,—for by the rules of law in old time almost everything might be entered upon record. First and foremost amongst the Records are all royal grants. By a fundamental constitutional rule, the sovereign can grant only by matter of public record. There are to be no smuggled gifts of lands or offices or privileges to favourites. Every grant proceeding from the Crown is to be above-board,—and is to pass through a variety of hands, each hand being responsible for the accuracy and legality of whatever it passes. If the sovereign grants illegally, it is because the officers fail in their duty; and it is on this ground that they are responsible, and not the Crown. Almost all the land of the kingdom has at some period or other—by forfeiture, by the suppression of the monasteries, or in one way or another—passed through the hands of the Crown; and in that way the Crown-grants, entered on our Public Records, have become in point of fact the title

deeds—the very foundation of the title—of the great body of our landowners.

The enrolled entries of the proceedings of all the superior courts of law constitute another branch of our Public Records. Amongst these are, all proceedings to cut off entails by levying fines or suffering recoveries (which are founded upon suppositive suits),—proceedings in which every landowner in the kingdom is more or less interested. Amongst the proceedings of the Court of Exchequer are to be found records which detail the financial history of the kingdom; and in the accounts of the sheriffs during the days when those officers received a great deal of the hereditary revenue of the Crown—which accounts were all passed in the Exchequer,—there are particulars of almost all changes in the occupation of land, and consequently of all pedigrees of landowners, every change having been accompanied by some money payment. In the proceedings of another court—the High Court of Parliament—we have a great deal of public and legal history; and in those of still another court—the King's Bench—there is much of the criminal jurisprudence of the kingdom.

Besides these—which are some of the more obvious subjects of the Public Records—a multitude of other things have come to be "entered of record," some by statute, some by order of the Courts, some by long prescription of which the original reason is often difficult to divine, and some by arrangement with the sovereign or his officers,—in the same manner as grants of lands in the still older times—before the existence of our Public Records—were by arrangement with the head of some church or monastery entered in a fine illuminated Book of Gospels, or in some other celebrated church book, in order to their perpetual preservation. So that, it is difficult, if not actually impossible, to point out any branch of historical investigation which may not be more or less illustrated out of these rare and precious documents.

These few remarks, incomplete as we know them to be in every possible way, will, however, suffice to give some general idea of the nature of what are properly termed our Public Records, and to show what a wide interest people of all classes have in their proper custody. Every owner of a foot of land has a direct personal concern in their preservation. There are few titles in the kingdom that might not be shaken by any accident which should happen to them.

Supplementary to our true Records are the unenrolled legal documents which detail the proceedings of inferior judicial or ministerial officers. The vastness of the mass of public documents of this supplementary character is hardly imaginable,—and they are of as many differing kinds as in number they are inconceivable. One example will suffice to indicate the character of a great mass of them. When a person died holding lands of the Crown, the Crown was anciently entitled to the wardship of the heir, to the receipt of the profits of the lands during his minority, and to a payment when he attained his majority. In order that this cumbrous system—founded upon the old feudal principle that the ultimate property of all the lands in the kingdom vested in the Crown—might be carried out, whenever a tenant of the Crown died, a command was sent to a particular public officer, directing him to summon a jury, and to obtain from them a verdict as to what lands the deceased tenant possessed, who was his heir, and what was his age. The officer did as he was bid, and ultimately returned the command to the proper authority, with the verdict of the jury annexed. A procedure of this kind—an inquiry through a jury presided over by a public officer—was anciently the ordinary way of obtaining information upon every subject whatever,—even upon points analogous to those on which now-a-days we summon witnesses from every part of the kingdom to give evidence before committees sitting at Westminster.

In reference to these supplementary documents, it is obvious that they are not strictly speaking Records—their contents are not unimpeachable—nor do they partake so much of the character of title-deeds as many of the Public Records properly so called. They no doubt contain very much val-

uable information respecting persons, places, and facts of all kinds; but they are occasionally erroneous, and are always subject to further inquiry and cross-examination.

Documents of these two characters anciently comprised almost all the writing which was connected with the transaction of the business of the State. In those days, if men settled an account, it was stated *ried roce*, and cast up, not on paper, but upon a chequered cloth. If the balance was not paid in cash, it was acknowledged, not in a bill of exchange or in an Exchequer bill, but by a tally or wooden staff, on the sides of which its amount was hieroglyphically notched. If any little question arose with our neighbours of Flanders,—say, about an English ship detained in one of their harbours,—the Lord Malmesbury of the day did not write to our resident at Brussels with full instructions to obtain such and such a compensation—whence would probably arise a long correspondence—but some dignified ecclesiastic was despatched with a numerous and costly train of secretaries and cross-bearers, with a letter intrusted to him, in which the Government of the country complained of was directed to give credence to whatever he should say to them on our king's behalf. This was the ancient way. But as education was more widely diffused, less cumbrous modes of transacting business were introduced, and a new class of documents and papers came into use. These are known under the general term of "STATE PAPERS,"—a term which comprehends all the correspondence of official persons, and all the public documents which contain and express the results of that correspondence.

Now, as to the custody of these two great different classes of documents,—Records and State Papers—an obvious, but most important distinction occurs to every one at the first blush of the matter. The "Public Records,"—comprising under that term the documents rightly so called, and also those of the supplementary character before pointed out,—are really and truly PUBLIC Records. Every man has an interest in them, and every man has therefore a clear right to search in them and to copy from them, paying such fees as are deemed reasonable. They should also be so kept that this right may be best exercised. A man, for example, purchases or succeeds by descent to a manor situate by the sea-shore. Large quantities of wreck are thrown up on the beach. He sells the wreck. The money proceeds are claimed on behalf of the Crown. That man has a right to go at once to the Public Records to search for the enrolment or entry on record of the grant by which this manor passed from the Crown,—perhaps in the reign of one of the Edwards or Henrys,—and under which grant he now holds his estate. When found, he has a right to inspect the grant, and thereby to ascertain whether under the terms of it "wreck of the sea" passed to the grantee, or was reserved by the Crown. This is one example. We will quote another. Lord Fitz Thomas dies without a known heir. A poor shoemaker in a country town goes to a lawyer, and details the tradition of his family, that they were of the same stock as the late noble peer. The family Bible is dragged forth, sundry well-preserved relics of ancient gentility are proudly produced, the recollections of all the oldest persons of the family are noted down, a pedigree is concocted. The question turns upon whether a certain John, who lived in the time of James the First, was son and heir to Edward, who was brother to the Lord Fitz Thomas of that period. Here the Legal Proceedings which we have described as supplementary to the Records will help. Search is made for an inquisition upon the death of that same Edward. It is discovered. What said the jury? They found, that not John, but "Francis, who, at the death of the said Edward, was of the age of fifteen years and a half or thereabouts, was the only son and heir of the said Edward." This is fatal, and the disappointed shoemaker returns to his humble home, "not his honour nor his lordship," but with an attorney's bill to pay, which might have been much longer but for the right to inspect the Public Records.

Fifty, or five hundred, other examples might be

quoted without difficulty, in proof of the reasonableness of the position, that these are really and truly public documents, and that they ought to be kept securely, but so as to be fully and freely accessible to general inspection on payment of fees just large enough to deter speculative peering and estate hunters, and no larger.

But with respect to State Papers the case is quite different. These comprise the transactions of the executive power of the State, many of which are at the time necessarily secret. It might be a great prejudice to the public service if these were displayed before prying and inquisitive eyes. It is evident that such papers are not Public Records,—they are not title-deeds,—they do not ordinarily, and never conclusively, affect any man's private estate,—they are little more than the mere official correspondence of what we now term the Ministry and the public officers of State with one another and with the representatives of foreign States. To a right of such papers the public at large have no right whatever. The proper primary mode of keeping them is one which has no more reference to any use or inspection of them by the public than that in which any merchant or banker keeps his letter-books or ledgers.

But now, mark the effect which lapse of time produces upon the value and usefulness of these two descriptions of documents. The Public Records, whatever their age, are always liable to be called into use. One of the members for North Lancashire obtains a Commission to consider the state of our Universities. Forthwith, months are occupied in general searches for records relating to the foundation and ancient privileges of every separate college. The Board of Woods and Forests sets up a claim to certain lands stated to have been ceded from that Forest which we still call "New," although it derived its origin from the son of William the Conqueror:—searches, inquiries, extracts beyond number are immediately rendered necessary. Such things occur so frequently, and in such numbers and varieties, as to prove beyond question that such is the continuity not only of our existence as a State and of our language—witness the "New" Forest,—but of many of our institutions, and of the title to many of the rights and privileges attached to landed property in the possession of subjects at the present day,—that our Public Records, whatever their age, are still useful for the very purposes for which they were at first designed, and ought still to be kept in the way which is rendered necessary by those purposes.

But what about our State Papers? How does time operate upon them? A correspondence, for example, between Cardinal Wolsey and Francis the First,—or, the general letter-book of Lord Sunderland as Secretary of State to James the Second,—what is the practical value of those at the present day? To have exposed them to public view in the sixteenth or seventeenth century would have occasioned outbursts of contemporary fire and fury,—but who would be disturbed or excited now if they were all proclaimed with sound of trumpet at Charing Cross? The lapse of centuries, which produces comparatively little effect upon the Public Records, totally changes the character of the State Papers,—and should be accompanied by a corresponding change in the mode of their custody. When the State Papers to which we have alluded, and all others of similar kinds, cease to be practically useful—cease, that is, to have any effect upon the business of nations or on the feelings of individuals,—they become the materials of the historian. He alone can use them,—he alone can discover their real meaning. To other people they may be curiosities, to be exhibited in glass cases or purchased at extravagant sums by autograph collectors,—but the historian alone can put them to any sensible use:—the historian alone, by the exercise of his fine chemistry, can extract from their dull and formal details narratives more interesting than romance, patriotic lessons more inspiring than martial music, teaching to which nations or governors who refuse to listen must be unwise indeed. How, then, should such papers be kept? In this, as in every other case, the mode of custody should bear relation to the character and use. If the use be only historical, the papers should be kept in such

manner as that they can be most easily accessible to persons capable of applying them to their only use. To mow them up under restrictions applicable to their character whilst still recent and capable of being brought to bear upon the current business of the world, is simply ridiculous. To involve them jointly with Public Records in a mode of custody applicable only to Records, is just as ridiculous. They should be so kept as that the only persons competent to use them can have the freest and fullest access to them,—may refer to them, not once, but again and again,—may take notes of them, or copy them,—without questions asked, or any display of presumed condescension and kindness in incurring trouble without payment.

Upon this point it seems to us that the greater part of the business of a proper arrangement of our public documents turns. They should be kept in ways consistent with their character and with their use. There should, consequently, be one mode of custody for Public Records,—a second for recent State Papers,—a third for State Papers and all documents whatever of which the uses are only historical and literary.

We see these three modes of custody in operation in the Record Offices, in the State-Paper Office, and in the British Museum,—and we see the literary results in the fact, that whilst our Public Records and our State-Paper Office are comparatively mines unworked by historical writers, the State Papers in the British Museum have been ransacked over and over again by several generations of writers.

Now, we would submit to the persons officially interested in these questions, whether literature and the public service would not be advanced by maintaining these three descriptions of custody in these three several departments of the public service?—whether our "strong box" ought not to be satisfied with the care of the Public Records for which it was designed?—whether the State-Paper Office may not properly be set apart for the care of recent State Papers, to which the public should not be admitted—whilst all the more ancient State Papers now in that office, and scattered about in several of the Record Offices—together with all other documents of which the uses are only literary or historical—should not be added to the rich store of such papers already in the British Museum?

We make these suggestions, not from any distrust of the intentions or capability of the official persons with whom the first decision of these questions rests. But everything has two sides. The official side in this matter is very different from the literary side. We present the latter to the Master of the Rolls and his able conditors for their consideration. We believe it is simple, economical, and reasonable,—that it will extricate them from difficulties in which they will otherwise find themselves involved,—and, finally, that if they adopt it they will be entitled to high credit for carrying out an arrangement which will more materially and directly conduce to the advancement of historical literature than any facilities which they may otherwise contemplate.

VISIT TO THE VALLEY OF CONSTANZA,

In the Cibao Mountains of the Island of Santo Domingo, and to an Indian Burial-ground in its Vicinity.

BY SIR ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK.

WE left the small hamlet Pedro Ricart, at the foot of the mountain Barrero, on the 20th of July, at noon. The breeze wafted occasionally to us the report of guns and the sound of bells from the adjacent village Jarabacoa. There, the multitude were feasting in honour of Nuestra Señora del Carmen,—to whom this hermitage is dedicated.

The ascent of the Barrero commences almost immediately behind the hamlet. I saw on the wayside some large granitic boulders:—perhaps a shock of an earthquake—to which the country is subject—had hurled them from the mountain top to a situation so low. The narrow path up the mountain is a continuous zigzag. Ramon, our guide, led the way on his sturdy pony, decked in a dress befitting the occasion, and very different from the finery in which he was attired the previous day at the fête of Nuestra Señora de Carmen.

I followed with my companion,—and then came the servants, and the peons or attendants to the cargo-horses, with their beasts of burden in the rear.

The leaves (or needles, as they are called in the German language in consequence of their linear structure) of the pine-trees which covered the path rendered it very slippery; and as the ascent made, in spite of the zigzag, often an angle exceeding 30°, the greatest caution was necessary.

The pine-trees of the tropics, like their congeners of a more northern clime, allow but few plants to grow beneath the shade of their branches. I observed principally a few grasses and sedges,—and here and there a scarlet *Salvia*. A kind of gully was overgrown with bushes; and between them, I observed tufts of an *Alpinia*, with rose-coloured flowers and deep-black berries. A few arborescent ferns were noted between the *Alpinia*.

We had continued the ascent for an hour:—but the prospect was by no means extensive. Through the column-like trunks of the pines the vista presented occasionally the hamlet, with its surrounding plantain and banana cultivations,—but apparently so close in a line below our feet, that we really were disposed to wonder how we got up there.

The narrow path wound now round a gorge: when a mass of bright scarlet flowers attracted my attention, and raised my curiosity to such a degree that I passed honest Ramon on his low steed, though an unpleasant tumble into the gorge below was very imminent to both of us as a consequence of my movement. The flowers were those of a splendid fuchsia (perhaps *F. racemosa*)—their drooping elegant blossoms nearly two inches long,—and to enhance the beauty, there were sometimes a dozen of these splendid flowers on each branchlet. The fuchsia is one of our favourite flowers in Europe. As a stranger, it is there carefully raised in the conservatory of the rich and cherished in the inclosure in front of the poor cottage. The bride twines it in her hair with the orange flower and the blossoms of the rose. Yet here in its native soil, I met with this plant for the first time to-day. I had wandered over mountain and dale under the tropics,—the former much higher in elevation, the latter much richer in vegetation: yet no scene had hitherto presented me with a fuchsia.

The red soil bespeaks the ochreous nature of the Barrero, and it seemed to me as if Flora herself had adopted this hue as her favourite colour. Higher up, where a deep and narrow cutting exposed the formation of the mountain, I found slaty clay tinged with iron. Soon after, we reached the highest pass,—where we halted. The cargo-horses arrived half an hour later. It was then half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and the thermometer stood at 68° Fah.†

Here we allowed our panting horses a short rest:—and a fine carpet formed of the favourite grass of the equine race (*Eleusine indica*) was eagerly resorted to by them. In a little recess of the mountain—perhaps hollowed out by former torrents of rain—were assembled a variety of interesting plants. The splendid fuchsia neighboured the psychotria, with its large lovely panicles of flowers of the finest azure blue,—that colour so scarce in Flora's empire,—its footstalks of bright crimson, its leaves large, and of a dark, shining green. How beautiful was this when combined with the scarlet fuchsia! From the midst of this bouquet, planted by the hand of Nature, rose the symmetrical form of the royal palm (*Palma real* or *Oreodora ultramarina*). The *alpinia* clustered at its foot,—and the plant branches of a tropical grape-vine hung from shrub to shrub in natural festoons. A few fern-trees completed one of the finest pictures of vegetation that I had beheld under the tropics.

It is strange to a European to see himself surrounded at once with the products of the two extreme zones—the pine and the palm tree. Yet, may not this picture have presented itself in former geological eras in the north of Europe:—and to

* I measured in one instance 35° by the clinometer.

† I had an aneroid barometer with me; but as I have not yet calculated the elements, I do not venture to state the height.

that may we not ascribe the occurrence of trunks of palms in its coal measures?

We mounted our horses, and followed the narrow path that led along the side of the hill. The strong wind blew the rain, that now descended in torrents, into our faces. The thermometer had sunk to 55°. The storm could not have overtaken us in a more exposed situation; and we found some difficulty in maintaining ourselves on our horses,—for the large trees bent around us like reeds. So, we halted, and placed ourselves to the lee of the horses until the storm should have ceased.

The rapid atmospheric changes so common on high mountains presented, shortly after, a splendid view through the opening between the Barrero and the Jagua mountains. The summits of the high elevations that formed the background of the picture in the west were encircled with white fleecy clouds,—the sky in that direction was of a dark blue, which gave to the scenery a similar tint, and showed the outlines of the mountain chain with greater sharpness,—streams of light, similar to the fitful bands of the auroral phenomena, played over the sky in the north-west,—and at our feet the little village of Jarabacoa was lying in full sunshine. The course of the river Jimenoa showed like a broad silvery thread, fringed with dark-coloured pine-forests.

These mountains are peculiarly formed. The main direction of the chain is east and west;—but there are so many interlacings by sharp-ridged offsets, that one who had not seen the chain from the distance, so as to form an idea of its longitudinal direction, would find himself bewildered in seeking the points of the compass to which this backbone of the island of Santo Domingo really stretches.—I feel inclined to describe it as a net of mountains:—the extreme northern and southern sides forming the frame, and the connecting links the meshes.—Narrow deep valleys on each side of the interlacing ridges force the traveller to continue on their summits, although he is in consequence obliged to make long detours; and instead of advancing steadily towards the south-south-west—which is his true course to Constanza—he is often obliged to follow the ridge to the north and eastward before he is able again to continue to the south-south-west. Our guide had already told us, that so eccentric are the ways of these mountains that two friends meeting in the morning, the one coming from Constanza the other from Jarabacoa, in opposite directions, and having each parted on his several way, might at noon have another opportunity of saying "How d'ye do?" across some chasm,—in consequence of the twistings and turnings which both had to take. We did not understand what he meant at the time,—but it became clear to us now.

We arrived after four o'clock at a spot called Cristobal. Here stood formerly huts to receive and shelter the way-worn traveller; but some guerilla troops, who were to guard these mountain fastnesses during the late invasion of the Haytians, had wantonly set fire to them.—It was very chilly,—the thermometer at 69° F. We found, luckily, that some of the posts were only half-burnt; and there being a large number of palm-trees in the neighbourhood, a hut or rancho was ready before nightfall. The pine forest gave plenty of materials for maintaining a bright fire; the more requisite as it rained until after midnight, and we found soon that our roof was not water-proof.

The morning was bright. The rain-drops on the scarlet bells of the fuchsia glistened in the rays of the sun, and the delicious morning song of the *sigüero* (*Cyphorinus cantans*, Cab.) resounded through the forest. Our road was of a description similar to that of the previous day;—the vegetation, however, more varied. Near to our camp I observed the guava (*Psidium pomiferum*)—a very pretty clitoria, the numerous blue pen-shaped blossoms of which formed garlands for the trunks of trees and underbushes,—the white-blossomed bastard ipecacuanha (*Asclepias curassavica*),—an orange-coloured lantana,—and several other plants from the valley below.—The psychotria, with its azure-blue flowers, was most luxuriant,—presenting a mass of flowers which seen through the dark-green foliage seemed to be surrounded with a

brighter light than was observable around other plants. This optical illusion is no doubt ascribable to the strong contrast between the colour of the leaves and the lively blue of the flowers. It is not possible to convey an idea of the gorgeous appearance of this shrub;—which in all my wanderings in South America and the West Indies I had never met with before. There were two other species of the same genus,—one with yellow flowers, the other pale rose-coloured. Among the trees I noted a species of sumach (*Rhus arborea*?), fern-trees—those true children of a moist tropical climate, alpinias, begonias. The trunks of the pine-trees were covered with purple-leaved Tillandsias, and the gigantic Dyckia, which just put forth its flower-stem, resembling in appearance an agave in miniature. A pretty orchidea grew in groups among the long grass,—the flower stems richly set with pink-coloured blossoms.

During my previous excursions I had frequently observed in the beds of the rivers which descended from the Cibao range masses of granite of larger or smaller size,—but I had never met it *in situ*. I saw it here for the first time;—indeed, the sharp ridges of the mountains were all granitic. One of the projecting points of the mountain was composed of calcareous sandstone. Soon after, large boulders of a close-grained blue sandstone crossed our path. The direction was east and west. It was in masses and denuded—and seemed almost as if it had been ejected from between the granite.

A conical hill was pointed out to me as Redondo, or "el Castillo Frances," the French Castle. Here, tradition says, the French had a fortification,—but at what period I have not been able to learn. It was certainly not during the middle of the last century,—as of that period there are still eyewitnesses living. I consulted a person now ninety-eight years of age, who had frequently passed the road when young. Even then, he said, no vestiges of the walls were to be seen,—and the place was overgrown with pine-trees.

A better situation for hindering an enemy from availing himself of the mountain-pass to penetrate from the western parts of the island to the eastern, or *vice versa*, could not have been selected. The conical hill is connected by a ridge scarcely a foot wide with the other mountains, and rises considerably above those in the neighbourhood. The hill consists of decomposing granite, and its summit affords a splendid mountain view. The trench, or fosse, is still visible,—but nothing can be discovered of mason-work. The fortifications must have been very circumscribed, as the summit does not afford much room. It is now overgrown with centenarian pine-trees, from the branches of which "old man's beards" (*Tillandsia usneoides*) hang down to a most respectable length.

We traversed the Jimenoa—here much reduced in size from what we had seen this river near Jarabacoa. The banks of these mountain streams are generally thickly lined with palm-trees; and as the sun's rays cannot penetrate to the soil below their feathery branches, we find usually a deep morass in such situations. The right bank of the Jimenoa seemed so inviting, and presented such a fine tuft of grass to our horses, that we resolved to breakfast here. It swarmed, however, with mosquitos and sandflies, which rendered our halt irksome,—and we hastened to ascend the hills before us. I observed here a pommerose tree (*Jambosa vulgaris*),—and further on some coffee plants. If I was rightly informed by General Reyes, the pommerose tree was introduced from Jamaica only in 1751. It has now so spread over the island that it might be considered indigenous by one not acquainted with its Eastern origin. I have found in some parts whole acres covered with this tree.

The chain which we had traversed separates the tributaries of the river Yacki from those of the Yuna. We now descended to the Tiro, which flows into the Yuna,—unquestionably the largest river in the Dominican Republic. It disembogues into the great bay of Samana. Shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon we halted at Pontezuela, and enjoyed the first view of the Valle de Constanza. The pass of Pontezuela (or little bridge) is the connecting link between the two mountain

chains that encompass the valley. We had now entered the system of rivers which empty themselves into the Atlantic on the south side of the island. The little rivulet that flowed sparkling valley-ward to the W.S.W. entered the river Limón, a tributary of the little Yacki, which flows into the Bay of Neybey, while its larger namesake passes the city of Santiago, from whence it takes a west course and flows into the Bay of Manzanillo. At the time of Columbus—indeed until 1804—it disembogued into the Bay of Montecristo,—and the great discoverer called it the Golden River.

The view from Pontezuela over the valley is lovely. The bright yellowish green of the savannahs produces an admirable effect among the sombre pine-trees which encompass them. Mountains of a dark blue, whose summits tower into the clouds, form the background of the picture.

We descended, and passed for some distance through forests. The ground was now quite level. After half an hour's ride, we issued from the forest and entered on the savannah. The contrast is great. The view, previously bounded by high trees, is now free; and the eye glances with some astonishment to the summits of the mountains which in grotesque forms encircle the valley in the figure of an elongated ellipse.

The savannah was alive with grazing cattle; and a number of young horses, under the guidance of their dams, approached to reconnoitre our cavalcade. On the attack of our dogs, they threw out their hind legs most lustily—and scampered back into the forest. The grass on the savannah is short,—but much coveted by animals. It seemed to consist principally of *Panicum horridum*, *Leptochloa* and *Elexisina indica*. These grazing grounds, as I learned afterwards, are surpassed by none. The cattle thrive, and the meat is described as possessing a superior flavour. For this reason the secluded valley to which access is so difficult was selected as a pasture as long ago as 1750, and has continued such to this day.

Our path led once more through pine-woods; and we reached soon after the western mountain that sets a boundary to the valley. At its foot flows the rivulet Pantufo;—on the banks of which we discovered a wretched-looking "buhio," or hut, covered with palm-leaves,—which, nevertheless, I was told, is the best of the six that are to be found in the valley. A single family has resided permanently for the last two years at Constanza;—the others come hither only occasionally, to look after the cattle, to brand the young ones, and to carry such as are fit for the market to the plains. The proprietors of the cattle and horses reside mostly in Jarabacoa and Pedro Riar. With the exception, then, of the family mentioned, there are periods when the valley is without inhabitants.—I had no choice but to put up at the "buhio." The brother of the proprietor, with the mayoral, and six herdsmen, were there; all of whom, with ourselves, servants and peons, had to find room in a hut not thirty-five feet square and open to the winds. It swarmed, moreover, with fleas, from the large number of dogs that belonged to the farm. However, Señor Juanico was obliging, and willing to afford us all the accommodation which his mountain-hut possessed. Night approached, and our cargo-horses had not arrived. Except our slight breakfast on the banks of the Jimenoa, we had not tasted food,—and all our stock was with the beasts of burden. We addressed ourselves therefore to our obliging host, to know if he could furnish something to satisfy the cravings of our stomachs. But he informed us, with woe-begone face, that there was "un poco menos que nada" (a little less than nothing) in the hut. He had neither fowls, nor plantains, nor batatas.—"For heaven's sake," said I, "then, on what do you live here?—for none of you seem to be in a starving condition?"—"On milk and cheese, principally. We receive occasionally *casavi* bread and plantains from Jarabacoa,—the arrival of which constitutes a feast."—"Have I been deceived in my supposition that the soil is fertile?"—"No; it is extremely fertile."—"Why, then, do you not cultivate it?"—"El Volcan!" It then occurred to me, that I had heard in La Vega of a remarkable blast which occasionally

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side in, and by its icy current destroys the leaves of the trees and kills every plant of tender growth. The destroyer appears during the night, without previous warning,—when the sky is clear and the air calm. The course of its path can be distinctly traced,—though it is variable in its direction. It comes, however, generally, in December and January, from the eastern high mountains, and sweeps over the valley,—seemingly exhausting itself on the opposite hills. In the morning, the leaves of all trees, with the exception of the pine, are yellow, and drop; and in a day or two, the naked branches present the picture of our northern winter. The noble stems of the banana and plantain first droop, and afterwards fall,—their vessels over-filled with watery juice. A similar fate meets the other culinary plants. This blast has received the name of Volcano, from the circumstance that the vegetation assumes a yellow hue as if fire had passed over it:—at least so Señor Juanico told me. This phenomenon struck me as very remarkable,—as the absolute height does not warrant frost. It can be ascribed only to local causes,—to investigate which would require more time than I can give to. On making further inquiries, on my return to Jarabacoa and La Vega, I was told by well-informed people that it is always known, from the chilly dry air which prevails, even at the foot of the mountains, that “el Volcan” has passed the Valle de Constanza.—Sometimes a couple of years pass without the occurrence of this phenomenon,—at other periods, it takes place several times in the course of a year. Under these circumstances, I was not a little astonished when the permanent resident of El Valle de Constanza, a mulatto of much intelligence, brought me next day a tray of fine cabbages which would have done honour to Covent Garden Market, chyme, onions, shalots, celery, with batatas, and other tropical productions,—accompanied by a nosegay of some centifolia roses, pinks, and tuberoses. I began to doubt the effects of “el volcan”;—but Señor Antonio explained to me his success in the following manner.—“I am,” he said, “a native of San Juan, close to the Haytian frontier. The late wars between the Haytians and the Dominicans deprived me of all I possessed; and when Souloque approached the frontier anew, I resolved to fly to the mountain recesses of Constanza. On my arrival with my family at this spot about two years ago, one of the blasts of which you speak had just swept over the valley,—and all vegetation was destroyed. It was a gloomy sight for a man who intended to settle here and cultivate the ground for the maintenance of his family. Nevertheless, I took good heart. Better, thought I, to contend against nature than against savages like the Haytians,—who, in the dark of the night, fell upon my farm, stole away my son, drove off my cattle, and set fire to my bushes. So I fell on my knees, and made a vow to Nuestra Señora de la Merced,—which she has heard:—for since I came here the destroyer has not once swept over the valley. Nevertheless, I must leave it,—for since I am the only one who works, all the rest wish to live on me,—and my provision grounds are constantly robbed.”—I have a good opinion of Antonio, and leaving unquestioned his faith in Nuestra Señora de la Merced, I believe his tale to be true. The remains of bygone tribes that once peopled the countries from which Europeans, under the plea of introducing the Christian religion and charity, have extirpated the indigenous inhabitants, have always been of the highest interest to me.—On approaching the hut of Juanico, I observed some earthworks on my right. On inquiry, I learned that these were the remains of the palace of the Indian queen Constanza:—so, at least, it had been reported from father to son. Constanza took no additional interest in my eyes:—a female chieftain of that name lent it new lustre. I had considered the name of the valley accidental,—but it seemed now to possess historical interest. My inquiries, however, to find out who Queen Constanza was proved fruitless. She seems to have been converted to the Christian religion:—at least so the name would indicate. “Oh,” said Juanico, “there is likewise an

Indian sepulchre, or burial-ground, in the neighbourhood.”—This I was very anxious to see;—but there seemed to be a great unwillingness to visit it, and I had to insist on guides being given to me.—Antonio and a boy at last showed themselves ready to serve as guides,—and we turned towards the foot of the southern mountains of the valley. An hour's good walking through the pine forest brought us to a rivulet:—here I observed earth-walls of a semicircular form. Crossing the brook, I saw on a hill-side traces as if a broad path in zigzag form had led to a mount, from the foot of which the burial-place of a thousand or more of the aborigines spread in a circular form, bounded by the mount, the rivulet, and the pine forest.

The tumuli are of a rounded shape,—or rather oblong; covered invariably with fragments of rocks, among which I particularly observed greenstone. This I think has been brought from a distance, as I did not discover any of it *in situ*.—The graves have an east and west direction. The greater number are of dimensions calculated for only a single individual:—but there are others which, judging from their appearance, may cover several persons.—What shall we say to this discovery:—had the aborigines an idea of family sepulchres?

I have said, that I stood on the burial-place of a thousand or more. The number of graves in the more open place, where only here and there a pine-tree sprouts, from spots containing

Saat, von Gott gesät, dem Tage der Garben zu reifen, are underrated if assumed only at a thousand. They extend in the adjacent forest to the rivulet's banks,—and there may be probably double the number altogether. I did not disturb the ashes:—this I must leave to others. Time was sparingly measured to me; and the absence of proper instruments for digging, as well as the unwillingness of my guides, prevented.

I left the burial-place with strange feelings. Perhaps I was the first European that had ever approached and wandered amongst the resting-places of proud warriors who ruled over these regions. Save these graves that speak of their extinction, not a trace is left of their existence.

My guides spoke of an old sweet orange tree planted by the Indians. The forest was full of the sour orange,—but this they said was of excellent taste, and had a trunk larger than a man's body. After much search it was found:—the guides had not been there for some years. The mother plant had fallen to the ground from old age, and was lying withered on the earth:—but a shoot, about thirty feet high and of quite healthy appearance, bore a few fruits. They were of excellent taste, and the greater number had no seeds. This is sometimes the case with old trees. The mother trunk must have been of very large size:—the heart of the wood, which had withstood decay, measured nearly three feet in circumference. This was no doubt the first sweet orange tree ever cultivated in this part of the island. Few trees are longer lived; and it is well known that the orange groves of Spain contain trees 600 years of age.

On my return to the “buhio” I measured the earth-walls of “La Casa de la Reyna Constanza.” The longitudinal direction of the two walls is W.N.W.—the sides, which are open, N.N.E. The walls are now about 6 feet high, 286 feet long, and stand 165 feet apart. About 158 feet from the northern end, there seems to have been an entrance,—and a corresponding one opposite. Several old pine-trees grow now from the top of the walls, attesting the antiquity of the structure. It stands close to a hill, the side of which bears traces of a broad path having led up to its first platform-like elevation.

THE POPULAR INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THERE is no one question arising out of the consideration of the present condition of our Popular Institutions which is involved in greater difficulty than that of the arrangement of Lectures. There is certainly no one on which depends so much their success or their failure.

Mr. Harry Chester says—“I conceive that a Literary and Scientific Institution ought systema-

tically to investigate and diffuse information respecting objects of practical utility.” Then again, when indicating the advantages to be derived from a central office in London, this gentleman remarks—“Such an office might form an extensive staff of Lecturers, men eminent in their special subjects; might collect illustrative specimens and diagrams; and, on application, supply the local institutions with lecturers and lectures on almost any subject. By judicious geographical arrangements, the most distant Institutions might be supplied at a reasonable rate with lecturers whom they now are entirely unable to remunerate, because they cannot ensure to them other engagements in the same neighbourhood.”

I cannot avoid thinking that Mr. Chester had not sufficiently considered the necessary requirements of a popular lecturer, and the positions in which “men eminent in their special subjects” are generally placed, when he penned the latter paragraph. Had he done so, he must, I think, have seen the difficulties which stand in the way of the fulfilment of this object; and it is not probable that he would have ventured to say more than might be comprehended in the expression of a hope that such desideratum might eventually be realized. As this is really the most important question with which we have to deal, it must be examined with more than ordinary care.

To commence with the first paragraph quoted. It cannot be denied, that the Institutions, under whatever name they may be known, should diffuse correct information on all subjects of utility, or indeed of passing general interest. But, it must be asked, by what means are they to do this?—on whom shall that task fall? This question is to a certain extent answered by the result of an experiment tried successfully in the Union of the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was resolved some years since to appoint a qualified gentleman as agent and lecturer, whose duties should consist in regularly visiting all the societies within the Union, imparting to them the most recent information of discoveries in science, and giving them the benefit of his knowledge when consulted on any points of difficulty. The Union was fortunate in its selection, and they obtained as their agent a gentleman who united in a very eminent degree the character of an original investigator in science, considerable artistic abilities, and great literary acquirements. These were further combined with considerable aptitude at seizing on points of the highest interest, and peculiar felicity in his manner of communication. The method of his working is well exemplified by the lectures given by him at the conclusion of the last session. Seldom has it happened that within a similarly short period so many explosions of fire-damp have proved destructive to masses of human life:—therefore, the subject of the formation of Fire-damp (carburetted hydrogen gas)—the subsequent production of Choke-damp (carbonic acid)—the philosophy of the Davy Safety Lamp—and the laws upon which the good ventilation of a colliery must depend—were the points on which he endeavoured to convey the best information to all the Institutions within the limits of that great coal field.

Could we succeed in mapping out the country into Unions, and in appointing a competent lecturer to each Union, this kind of useful information might be given. The principal difficulty will be, the greatly increased expense of this system in those districts where the Institutions are far apart and comparatively few. If we look at a population map, we shall find that around the depositories of our mineral wealth there are gathered dense masses of people,—whereas in the purely agricultural districts they are few, and the towns themselves are far between. The cost of transporting the lecturer and his apparatus, &c., from place to place will be considerable, and the salary which must be offered to ensure the necessary qualifications and the requisite energy cannot be a mean one. Could an arrangement, however, of this kind be made,—even if each Institution were not visited more than three times a year,—provided the information then and thus communicated were really of an essentially useful character, it would amply repay the cost. On this point the words of Dr.

Birkbeck, on imparting thoroughly practical information, are much to the purpose. This eminent philanthropist proposed to deliver lectures "solely for persons engaged in the practical exercise of the mechanical arts; men whose situation in early life has precluded the possibility of acquiring even the smallest portion of scientific knowledge, and whose subsequent pursuits, not always affording more than is necessary for their own support, and that of their dependent connexions, have not enabled them to purchase the information which curiosity, too active for penury wholly to repress, or the prevailing bias of their natural genius might prompt them to obtain. I have," he adds, "become convinced that much pleasure would be communicated to the mechanic in the exercise of his art, and that the mental vacancy which follows a cessation from bodily toil would often be agreeably occupied by a few systematic philosophical ideas upon which, at his leisure, he might meditate."—"It must be acknowledged, too, that greater satisfaction in the execution of machinery must be experienced when the uses to which it may be applied and the principles on which it operates are well understood, than where the manual part alone is known, the artist remaining entirely ignorant of everything besides. Indeed, I have lately had frequent opportunities of observing with how much additional alacrity a piece of work has been undertaken when the circumstances were such as I have now stated. Having been actively connected for five years with a society as practical in its objects as any in this country, and to which, as having conferred many lasting benefits in the way of ameliorating the condition of the working miner, I shall ever refer with unmixed pleasure,—I mean the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society,—and having during that period made it a part of my duty to visit every local institution in Cornwall, with the especial object of communicating the most recent and most useful information,—I can bear my testimony to the advantages derivable from even occasional visits properly directed.

In the large district of Devonshire and Cornwall there are not above fifty Institutions of the class now under consideration. In Somersetshire and Dorsetshire they are still less numerous. These were mainly dependent upon amateur lecturers, with the exception of the Institutes in the large towns. Since the organization of the Western Union of Institutions a few eminent lecturers have been drawn into the district; but here we have been met again with the complaint already mentioned,—that the lecture on Science does not pay as does a popular lecture on Proverbs,—or those of a lady whose eloquence and taste certainly adorn the literary subjects which she handles. The result is, that science is nearly excluded from the rôle of the lectures throughout the West of England. This is regretted by the managers of the Institutions; but they say, that the circumstances in which they are placed leave them no alternative,—they must endeavour to make the lectures pay.

I have already said—but I must repeat it,—that no one can be more convinced than I am of the advantages to be derived from the cultivation of elegant literature and the formation of a correct taste. I would advocate to the utmost instruction by lectures, and by all other means, in everything which has a tendency to refine the human mind,—conscious that a due appreciation of the beautiful in Nature or in Art will rarely co-exist with depraved inclinations. We live, however, in the most mechanical country to be found in this hard-working world. A nation of shopkeepers we have been called, and a nation of shopkeepers we remain,—and we have no small reason for being proud of our business capabilities. This being the case, the Institutions are bound as a duty to diffuse industrial knowledge, irrespectively of the popularity of such lectures. The question of investigation urged by Mr. Harry Chester, I take it, means no more than a careful examination of facts, so complete as to insure the correct understanding of them. But by whom is this investigation systematically to be made? An Institution may be so fortunate as to have an intelligent scientific secretary, or an active president who might take this duty on his

shoulders;—these instances will not be, however, general. If classes of observation could once be formed, many would be trained to the task, and the difficulty would be lessened. But until this is the case, there appears to be no other plan than that of throwing this task on the agent and lecturer whom I have ventured to suppose appointed in imitation of the Yorkshire Union. Even in those districts where the Institutions are "few and far between," an average of about 10*l.* or 15*l.* a year from each would form a fund sufficient to insure the labours of an efficient young man,—who might, indeed, find other means of adding to his income, without trenching on the duties of his appointment. Such an agent would at once remove the evils that arise from the isolation of which Mr. Chester complains,—and in many other ways he might be made the means of effecting a great reformation.—It must, however, by no means be thought that this idea is any other than one indication towards a favourable result which is drawn from a choice example. Were it adopted at once by all the Institutions, they would still be required to do much more. Particularly, it would be necessary for them to insure the occasional visits of men who, having devoted their mental powers to the examination of some especial subject, have become authorities thereon. From these must the *classes of observation*, the formation of which cannot be too strongly insisted on, take their instructions,—to these must they go for information whenever a difficulty arises.

The second paragraph opens so wide a field for remark, that it will be advantageous to consider it in another number. This is the more important, since I learn that the Royal Commission appointed to consider the disposal of the surplus fund of the Great Exhibition have declared in general terms in favour of applying it to purposes of INDUSTRIAL INSTRUCTION. It is certain, therefore, that in the progress of things,—either the existing Institutions must adapt themselves to the requirements of the time, must be organized into useful societies, (they need not cease to be interesting,—I fear they cannot continue to be amusing.)—or, if through any unfortunate prejudices they cling to their present system, new temples of instruction must of necessity arise, and the present ones will sink into decay.—Let us all endeavour to avert this by consolidating the old Institutions, rather than by constructing new ones. R.H.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

William Scrope—author of two good books, 'Days of Deer Stalking' and 'Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing'—known by these, as the Marquis of Newcastle of the reign of Charles the First was by his work on Horsemanship, to readers who know little of any other books—died on Tuesday last, at his house in Belgrave Square, in the eighty-first year of his age. Mr. Scrope was the last male representative of the famous family of his name seated at Castle Combe, in Wiltshire—of which they possessed the manor and estate as early as the reign of Edward the Third,—and boasting among its historical worthies the name of Lord Scrope of Bolton, Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of Richard the Second. Mr. Scrope was proud of his descent,—but prouder, we believe, of his skill with the gun and rod,—and, what is more to our liking, justly proud of his classical attainments and of his skill with the pencil. His books above named are accessories of importance to that class of literature to which Walton's 'Angler' and Davy's 'Salmonia' belong.—for Mr. Scrope had an eye alive to the varieties of nature, and a skill in communicating to his readers what he had seen and what he knew. With his pencil he was, we think, not so good; and his pictures, in spite of the touches which the late William Simson would frequently throw into them, are inferior to those of his fellow amateur, the late Sir George Beaumont.—It may be well to add, that Mr. Scrope was married in early life to Emma, daughter and heir of Charles Long, Esq., the younger brother of Sir James Tilney Long, of Draycot, in Wiltshire:—by whom he had an only child, Emma, married, in 1821, to George Poulett Thomson, Esq., brother to the late Lord Sydenham,—who thereupon took the name and arms of

Scrope in lieu of those of Thomson.—Mr. Scrope was an active—some artists have said an over-active—Director of the British Institution.

The daily papers have this week announced the death, in his seventy-fifth year, of the eminent surgeon Mr. John Painter Vincent. Mr. Vincent was for many years one of the surgeons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and twice filled the office of President of the Royal College of Surgeons. Having been engaged in extensive practice, he "had been unable," says a contemporary, "to contribute much to the advancement of medical or surgical science; but after his retirement from its active duties, he published, in 1847, for the benefit of the profession, the results of his observations on some of the parts of surgical practice, with an inquiry into the claims that surgery might be supposed to have for being classed as a science."

From Friburg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, we hear of the death, in his seventy-eighth year, of the well-known botanist and traveller, Baron George Frederic de Langsdorff. M. de Langsdorff was a native of Heidelberg, where his father was Chancellor of the University; and at the age of thirty the young man accompanied Admiral Krusenstern, as botanist to the expedition, in his voyage round the world. M. de Langsdorff passed many subsequent years of his life in exploring various botanical meridians:—and for a time he executed certain ministerial and diplomatic functions in the service of Russia at the Court of Rio Janeiro. The history of his voyages and of the results of his researches has been published in a series of works, in French and in German, which have appeared in Paris, Frankfort, Berlin, Dresden, and Leipzig.

The Academy of Sciences in Stockholm has lost the oldest of its members in the person of M. Wilhelm Hisinger—who has died at the age of eighty-six. M. Hisinger had been a member of the Academy forty-eight years—and several times its President. His writings have contributed more than anything else to extend the knowledge of Sweden in a geological and mineralogical sense;—and in the vast and rich mines which he possessed in the province of Stora-Kopparberg were first applied in Sweden all the new processes and new machinery which since the commencement of this century have so greatly advanced the mining art.—M. Hisinger has another title to the gratitude of his countrymen as having been the first to divine, encourage and aid the genius of Berzelius when the latter was young and without means. On these various grounds, he had been ennobled by his king, Charles John.

Norway has been deprived of one of her most learned historians, Dr. Niels Wulfberg, formerly Chief Keeper of the Archives of the Kingdom. The Doctor was in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Dr. Wulfberg was the founder of the two earliest daily papers ever published,—the *Morgenbladet* ('Morning Journal') and the *Fidre* ('Times'); both of which still exist,—one under its original title, and the other under that of the *Rigstidende* ('Journal of the Kingdom').

Letters have been received from Capt. Ingfield stating that the Isabella has made a good passage to the Orkneys, and that he expects to proceed without loss of time on his voyage to Baffin's Bay.—We may take this opportunity to mention, that an earnest desire has been manifested by several French naval officers to be employed in our public and private Arctic Expeditions. One officer is serving as a volunteer on board the Prince Albert; and Lady Franklin has recently received a letter from another, stating that he has obtained the permission of his Government to offer his services to her,—which he does in a very zealous and enthusiastic manner. His application, however, arrived too late to be entertained.

Having taken new premises, the Committee of the Bloomsbury Ragged and Industrial Schools find themselves short of some part of the funds which were required in order to complete their arrangements and put the institution in good working order on its new ground. A subscription list has been opened with a view to supply the deficiency,—and it is announced that the well-

known brewers, Messrs. Combe & Co., have sent to the committee a munificent donation of a hundred guineas in furtherance of their laudable objects.

A negotiation between the City authorities and certain commissioners of works—protracted with the usual slowness of such bodies whenever the public interests are at issue—has for several years past prevented the resumption of the extensive works connected with the improvement of Clerkenwell. The commissioners have been at a dead lock for want of funds. Even with a Government holding the national purse on their side,—such is the fear among monied men of financial reformers in the House of Commons, that the commissioners were unable to borrow enough money to enable them to carry the contemplated Victoria Street to its proper point. For some years that part of London has been a disgrace to the metropolis. Just enough had been done to lay bare the sore places of the great City. Field Lane was exposed to the passer-by,—the worst dens and courts of Saffron Hill, the Fleet Ditch, and the purlieus of Cow Cross were brought into prominent public view,—low and crowded dwellings, windows without glass, roofs from which the tiles have fallen long ago, children with pale and ghastly faces, forms hideous with disease and ugly with crime, were revealed. The City, it is said, has long been anxious to take the charge of these improvements into its own hands,—and, as we now observe that the works have been resumed, we infer, either that the transfer has been effected, or that the commissioners have at length obtained possession of the means required for their completion. In a few days there will be an opening of the fine thoroughfare, Victoria Street, as far as the Sessions House.—Meanwhile, let those who are charged with the task of demolition and reconstruction in this dense neighbourhood be once more reminded, that as they will have to unhouse a considerable number of poor persons whose means of life—such as they are—compel them to remain in the same locality, they should in due time take care to provide, in the rebuilding of the new street and its occupants, a sufficient number of model or other cottages adapted for the residence of poor people, so as properly and healthily to re-lodge the displaced population.

A circular has been recently issued by the Royal Commissioners of the Great Exhibition to the secretaries of the local committees, announcing that the distribution of medals, certificates, and jurors' Reports to exhibitors will probably commence on the 1st of August,—and stating, as a suggestion made to the Commission, that in some localities a public distribution might be desired, conducted either by the local committees or by the municipal authorities of the place. The circular expresses a wish that the feelings of the local committees and of the exhibitors should be ascertained on the subject,—and it is said, that numerous answers in the affirmative have been already received.

The projects which are started almost every day for the purpose of still further annihilating space have become so bold and extraordinary that the public have almost ceased to wonder at even the most "advanced" proposals. During the last ten days, for example, the Eastern Steam Navigation Company—an association of some pretensions—has obtained the permission of its proprietors to construct a class of steam-vessels of greater capacity and power than any that have yet appeared. It is intended with these steamers to perform the voyage from a Channel port to Calcutta, *via the Cape*, and without touching any intermediate place, in about thirty days. The speed would be about sixteen knots an hour, and the vessels would carry fuel for the whole voyage. The accommodation afforded to passengers and for cargo are expected to be of the most ample description; and when fairly equipped for a voyage, one of these giant steamers would not fall far short of a three-masted man-of-war in bulk and comprehensiveness. The project is a bold one. We express no opinion as to its soundness,—but it seems very likely to be submitted to the test of actual trial. Two years hence, therefore, it is probable that a floating hotel

will pass monthly from England to Calcutta in thirty days, carrying passengers at half the present overland charges. With such facilities of communication it will not be easy to retain the "Asian mystery" inviolate.

We have received from Mr. Dimma, minister of the parish church of Queensferry, the following communication in reference to Mrs. Everett-Green's repetition [see ante, p. 670] of the rumour which long attempted to account for the fate of James IV. after the battle of Flodden Field.—"I may mention," says our Correspondent, "in reference to this matter, that in my youth, upwards of sixty years ago, I heard frequently a tradition that James crossed the Tweed by a ford in the parish of Spronston, Roxburghshire, and reached, in his flight, the Berry Moss, in the parish of Ednam. Here he was overtaken and slain by some of his private enemies of the Home family, and his body was thrown into the Moss. A tradition was current amongst the aged people of the time referred to—among whom I may mention my own father,—that a skeleton, with a chain about it, was found in the moss, with links corresponding in number to the king's age. Instead, however, of being iron, it was represented to be gold.—In subsequent years I could never meet with any evidence to confirm the truth of a statement handed down from father to son, and always listened to with the deepest interest. Spronston is a border parish, and not far from the fatal field of Flodden. It could scarcely fail, therefore, to have many traditions, handed down from one generation to another, bearing on the events that occurred in the neighbourhood where so much blood was shed both in border feuds and on the battle-field.—As to Home Castle, and the finding of a skeleton in the moat, I have never heard such a statement made by any in that locality,—with which I am well acquainted. I may mention, however, a circumstance which was stated to me, about forty years ago, by a very respectable farmer who lived in the immediate vicinity of Home Castle. Stithell and Hume are conjoined parishes. The church of the latter is in ruins; but the churchyard still remains, and is still used as a place of interment. One day, when passing, my informant pointed to a small mound, which was called the King's grave, or that of some distinguished person. It was customary, he said, from time immemorial, when a funeral entered the churchyard, to walk in procession round this grave, and return to the spot where the dead was to be buried, in whatever quarter of the churchyard that might be. One cold and stormy winter day, the procession was objected to by some of the parties in attendance, and from that time the practice was discontinued. Might not the skeleton found in the Berry Moss have been interred here, and hence the origin of this mark of reverence to the grave of royalty? I am quite aware that in what I have stated there is no real evidence on which any dependence can be placed,—but the tradition is curious. Mrs. Green may have evidence to verify her statement of which I am not in possession.—We may here observe, that if Mrs. Green has such evidence, she has not yet met the challenge of our former Correspondent, and our own, that she should produce it.

A Correspondent writes to inform us, that the title of Mr. Wellbeloved's book to which we referred last week [see ante, p. 772] in our notice of Mr. Wright's book, 'The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon,' is correctly given by the latter as *Eburacum*,—and that it is printed for public sale. We are glad to learn that so good a book can be easily procured.

The Academy of Sciences in the French capital had this week to elect a Corresponding Member in its Section of Geography and Navigation:—and M. Antoine d'Abbadie was chosen for that distinction by a large majority of the voters.

Court gossip from the east of Europe says, that the King of Saxony has suddenly quitted imperial circles in Vienna for a botanical ramble in Dalmatia, in company with some of his Majesty's naturalist friends. Let us wish his botanizing Majesty better fortune than he found on his former scientific tour in an Austrian province. The story goes, that when the Saxon king had completed his Tyro-

lese collection of plants, roots and mosses, he sent them on to Vienna, with instructions that the bags should be forwarded to Dresden; but that when they arrived at the Austrian custom-house, the sapient officers who confiscated Plato's 'Republic' and detained the treatise on the 'Resolution of the Double Stars' gave the packages a thorough probing with their iron rods in search of contraband articles. The King's integrity was established by the rod,—but his herbarium was destroyed in the process.

During the excessively hot weather which has prevailed in London for the last fortnight, almost the uppermost thought in every one's mind has related to the best and readiest means of escaping from the hot and dusty streets into parks, or fields, or gardens, where fresh air at the least might be had, and probably a cooler temperature and a refreshing breeze. Malignant diseases of all kinds have been engendered or aggravated by the heat. Fever has prowled about with a keener thirst after victims,—and the fatality of the whole of that class of disorders which are fostered by bad ventilation and over-crowded houses has been especially increased. Those of our readers who look on such matters with an observant eye will not have failed to notice with particular satisfaction the vigorous efforts which have been made by the Town to keep itself cool. The railways and suburban omnibuses have driven a famous trade,—and the only limit to the living freights carried by the river steamboats has been, primarily, the standing room on the deck, and, secondly, some faint apprehension of the inspecting officer whom the Corporation are at length about to appoint to look after the safety of human life on the river.—In connexion with this subject, a correspondent writes to us as follows:—"The public are indebted to Lord Cardale for having obtained for them admission to the grounds of Chelsea Hospital till 'the hour of eight o'clock in the evening.' I am apprehensive, however, that there is a disposition to thwart this concession as far as possible; for on presenting myself last Sunday evening at the entrance to the Hospital grounds at ten minutes past seven, I was refused admission under the pretext that the grounds must all be cleared by eight o'clock, and that to accomplish such clearance it was necessary to prohibit all admission at about seven! I had no means of redress,—and I submitted. But the reason alleged is preposterous. Three or four policemen would expel every soul from the premises easily in a quarter of an hour,—and at this time of the year to stop admission at seven o'clock is a harsh and unnecessary proceeding."

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE, at their Gallery, 2, Pall Mall East, on SATURDAY NEXT, July 31.—Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d. GEORGE FRIPP, Sec.

Will close Saturday, July 31.
The EXHIBITION OF THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society is NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 53, Pall Mall, near St. James's Palace, from Nine o'clock till dusk.—Admission, 1s. JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—The GALLERY, with a Collection of PICTURES BY ANCIENT MASTERS and deceased BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN daily, from Ten to Six.—Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s. GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

Will close on Saturday next, July 31.
The EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS is NOW OPEN daily, from Nine till dusk, at the Portland Gallery, No. 216, Regent Street, opposite the Polytechnic Institution.—Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s. HELL SMITH, Secretary.

The last Week.
The AMATEUR EXHIBITION, consisting of Three Hundred ORIGINAL WORKS, entirely by Amateur Artists, at the Gallery, 131, Pall Mall, opposite the Open-House Colonnade, WILL BE CLOSED on SATURDAY NEXT.—Admission, 1s, from Ten till dusk. Catalogue, 6d.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.
ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—LECTURES.—By J. H. PEPER, Esq., on TESTING GOLD, and on the AUSTRALIAN GOLD DISTRICTS; and also on the ALLEGED ADULTERATION OF THE HURTON BITTER ALE WITH STYCHINE.—By Dr. Bachmayer, on the PATENT POLYTECHNIC GAS FIRE; and on EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY.—By Mr. Crisp, on MORRIS'S PATENT SEEDERS.—By George Buckland, Esq., on MUSIC, CLASSICAL and POPULAR, assisted by Madame Bregazzi and Miss Blanche Young, R.A. of Music.—NEW SERIES OF DISSOLVING VIEWS.—Exhibition of the MICROSCOPE, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools and Children under ten years of age, Half-price. For hours see Programme.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.—The Grand Morion Diorama illustrating the WELLINGTON CAMPAIGNS IN INDIA, PORTUGAL, AND SPAIN, concluding with the BATTLE OF WATERLOO, IS NOW EXHIBITING, daily. Afternoon, Three o'clock; Evening, Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s.; Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Reserved Seats, 3s. Doors open half-an-hour before each representation.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

ASIATIC.—July 3.—Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair.—The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Royle relative to internal evidence in the Vedas, derivable from Natural History, which might bear on the locality of their origin. He stated, that he had found none which were not Indian. The most curious of the subjects he had looked at was the *Soma* plant, which played so important a part in the religious ceremonies of the Hindús, and which could not be mistaken for any other. He noticed its smooth and leafless climbing stems, and the bunches of flowers proceeding from its joints which made it so remarkable, as shown by a drawing of the plant (the *Asclepias acida* of Roxburgh) laid upon the table. He said that the milky juice with which the stems were filled was of an agreeable acid taste, and formed an innocent beverage. He observed, that this plant is not found throughout the whole of India, but only in particular though extensive tracts. It is unknown throughout the Gangetic valley; but is seen in a variety of situations in the Bombay Presidency, and Central India, down to the Coromandel Coast. It is also seen in the Punjab; and was observed by Mr. Elphinstone in the Indian Desert. Dr. Royle inferred from these data that the early Hindús could have found it only in the west of India in the abundance necessary for their daily sacrifices. He was also of opinion that there only could they have known the sea, and made laws relative to marine insurances; and that it was there that the Hindús attained to such a pitch of civilization that the Arabs and Phœnicians coveted their manufactures, and carried their spices and other productions through the Red Sea and Persian Gulf to all the nations of antiquity.—The notice of a comparative vocabulary of the *Sinhā* and *Pyho* dialects of the Karens was then submitted; and remarks were read relative to the connexion between the Indo-Chinese monosyllabic languages and the Indo-Germanic tongues, by Mr. J. W. Laidly. After some observations on the great features which distinguish the monosyllabic tongues from those called Indo-Germanic, Mr. Laidly said, he had obtained the vocabularies of the tribes mentioned during a visit to Moulmein; that the tribes which spoke these dialects were scattered throughout Siam and Burmah, and perhaps in the interior also; and that they preserved their nationality and strikingly peculiar religious tenets uncontaminated by the powerful nations around them. He said, they were undoubtedly an immigrant people, and had been supposed to come from Yunnan, in China;—an idea not partaken by Dr. Laidly, who is inclined to adopt their own traditions, which import an emigration from the great Desert of Central Asia; and he thinks this is confirmed by the special Mongolian physiognomy of the people, and by the numerous Christian and Jewish features of their religion, which could have been obtained only from a communication with the Nestorian Christians who followed the footsteps of the roving Tartar in that desert many centuries ago.—The language of the Karens is monosyllabic, and intoned like the Chinese, though the words are mostly unlike. The roots are often identical with those of the Tibetan and other tongues spoken on the northern frontier of India; many are Burmese and Siamese, and, as stated, a few only are Chinese. The grand distinction between the monosyllabic and the polysyllabic tongues, Mr. Laidly thinks is the fact, that while the latter when they have occasion to express a new idea add new syllables to their old words, the former have recourse to the limited assistance of varying the tone of a word they have already in use. But the monosyllabic tongues, the Chinese for instance, have also the resource of adding a synonymous term of different sound to a word, which by the aid of the new syllable acquires a definite mean-

ing. The Karens employ the same principle of addition, but they use a word of contrast. As an example of this practice, Mr. Laidly adduced the word *la*, which, among other meanings, signifies moon; but in consequence of having several other meanings, it could be used only when the context was so definite as to obviate all chance of error. If it be required to name the moon where no consecutive sentence aids to fix the meaning, the speaker adds the syllable *mo*, which signifies the sun. The compound *la-mo* then formed a new word, which really and definitely meant the moon, and nothing else.—This process, Mr. Laidly thinks, may reveal the mode, or one of the modes, which has been followed in the formation of polysyllabic languages; and, after giving some curious instances of the persistence of the same original sound in the different Indo-Chinese tongues, he proceeded to consider his original idea,—the production of words in the polysyllabic languages. He takes the names of parts of the body, of common objects, of the elements, and of domestic animals. We cannot give more than a couple of specimens. The Chinese word for a stone is *shi*, like the old Egyptian. By adding the syllable *la* (Latin, *lapis*) we have the Sanscrit *shila*, of the same signification; the Hebrew *shel*; Latin *silex*. The Chinese words for "pigeon" are *pa* and *ko*; from the former syllable we make, by addition, the Sanskrit *parvata*, the Latin *palmulus*; the Greek *parra*: from the latter we have the Sanskrit *kopata*; the Latin *columba*; the Persian *kabutar*, and, perhaps, the Greek *κόλυμβος*. These specimens may suffice to show the views held by Mr. Laidly.—The Secretary laid before the meeting a paper by Capt. Chapman purporting to show that Asoka, the great Buddhist monarch of India, was identical with the Sandrocottus of Megasthenes.—An extract was read of a letter from Col. Rawlinson, in which that gentleman expressed his regret at having sent off his outline of the History of Assyria without some rectifications which he had since found it necessary to make. The first was relative to *Mardokempad* and *Mesessimordacus*, the supposed descendants of *Devanukha*, whom he had, on subsequent investigation, found to be the son and grandson of another king of very similar name, but not the monarch of Assyria. The next rectification was, that Tiglath Pileser (whose independent existence he had rejected, supposing the name to be merely a title of Shalmaneser, but of whose individuality he had since found sufficient evidence in the inscriptions of the S.W. palace of Nimrud) should now take the place which had been usually accorded to him as predecessor of Sargon. The third rectification had reference to the supposed son of Sardanapalus III.; whose existence rested on the incorrect copy of an inscription the original of which he had since examined, and found to contain nothing more than a votive offering to Neptune.—A subsequent letter from the Colonel furnishes a notice of further inscriptions of Tiglath Pileser, containing the whole of the annals of that monarch's reign.—Mr. Norris read the introductory portion of his paper on the so-called Median inscription of Behistún; which he trusted he could show to be in a Scythic dialect, analogous in many of its forms and much of its grammatical structure to the languages called Ugrian, including the Magyar and Ostiak, and the several tongues still spoken on the banks of the Volga, more especially termed Volga-Finnish. In concluding, he said, that the only name of a people found on the rock, not immediately taken from the Persian original, was one that might be read *Awardi*, or *Avardi*; and he thought that this was one of the tribes who spoke the language which he was engaged in investigating. He suggested also that the *Avars*, who were found upon the Volga towards the decline of the Roman Empire, might have been allied to the same race.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—July 5.—J. O. Westwood, Esq. President, in the chair.—H. Haselden, Esq. was elected a subscriber.—Mr. Janson exhibited, on the part of Mr. Hogan, a lepidopterous larva from whose segments proceeded several elongated fungus-like excrescences.—Mr. Douglas, referring to the exhibition at a former meeting of a bamboo

vase which had been eaten by beetles, and on which the observation was made that bamboo was not subject to the attacks of insects, remarked that a case full of bamboo fans imported from China two or three years ago had recently come under his notice, and he found that they were all destroyed by the mining therein of a minute beetle the same as discovered in the vase above referred to, *Apate bambuse*, Spence MSS.—A letter from E. L. Layard, Esq., Corresponding Member, resident in Ceylon, was read, having reference to the subject of insects attacking bamboo, and stating that these insects of several kinds, including white ants, ate up greedily fences or articles made thereof.—Mr. Douglas exhibited the curious larva case of *Tinea prelatella* found on *Gemm urbanum*; a new species of *Lithocolletia*, the larva of which fed on *Scabiosa Columbaria*, wherefore he proposed for it the name of *L. Scabiosella*; and a box of Lepidoptera taken on the occasion of the Society's excursion to Mickleham on the 26th of June.—Mr. J. Grant exhibited some recent captures of Lepidoptera, including *Diphthera Orion* from the New Forest; also the rare *Coleophora solitaria*, bred from *Stellaria holostea*, and *C. albivirella*, bred from *Glechomahederacea*.—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited a specimen of the very rare *Pacheta leucophaea*, taken flying at Mickleham.—Mr. C. S. Gregson exhibited many fine species of Lepidoptera from the north of England, including the rare *Crymades Tempi*, found among heaps of ironstone from October to February.—The President read an extract of a letter addressed to W. Spence, Esq., by G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq., of Ceylon, confirming previous statements of the crepitating faculty of *Cerapterus Westermanni*, one of the Pausidae.—Mr. S. J. Wilkinson exhibited cases from which he had reared *Oinophila rufiflora*. They were found in a wine-cellar, and were formed of the fungus usual in such places; and though this was the species said to feed on the corks of bottled wine, he believed that in this instance at least they had fed upon the fungus, for the bottled wine was at a distant part of the cellar, and no insects or cocoons were near that spot.—The following papers were read:—'Observations on the Habits and Economy of various Insects,' by Mr. W. Varney;—'Descriptions of Hymenoptera from the north of India,' by Mr. F. Smith; and—'Contributions towards the Natural History of British Microlepidoptera,' with illustrative figures, by Mr. J. W. Douglas.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Tues. Zoological, 9.—Scientific Business.
Wed. Botanic, 2½.—Promenade.

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—On Friday in last week the students who have gained prizes in the Marlborough House Exhibition of Practical Art received their several medals;—and the Examiners and Art-Superintendent have since published their report for the year. The examiners—Sir Charles Eastlake and Mr. Maclean—bear testimony to the value of the newly created institution, and express "their conviction, from a comparison of the present with the former Exhibition, that considerable progress has been made in most of the schools." Mr. Redgrave's report speaks in high terms of the skill displayed by the students in the initiative stages of their art—thus showing that the groundwork of future excellence is securely laid. "This," he says, "is especially evident in the works from Manchester, the metropolitan schools, and the schools in the Potteries, where the studies in this class are of great excellence. A sense of perfection is evident throughout the works of these schools; and the advanced classes are well represented, showing careful drawing, and a proper understanding and appreciation of the skeleton or constructing lines of the ornament, as well as being skilfully completed in light, shadow, or colour."

The Bury statue of Sir Robert Peel, by Mr. Bailey—of whose casting in bronze at the foundry of Mr. Robinson we lately gave our readers some account—is to be erected on its pedestal, we believe, in the course of the week after next. This Lancasterian

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Little need be said concerning the revival of 'Otello,' which opera has been performed with Madame de la Grange as *Desdemona*, Signor Bettini as *Otello*, and Signor De' Bassini as *Iago*.—It is due, however, to the last-named artist, as a new-comer with a foreign reputation, to remark, that whatever be his intrinsic value, the time, place, and manner of his introduction to our public have been such as to preclude the present possibility of his making any great impression here.

We must dwell more emphatically on the revival of 'La Cenerentola,' which took place on Tuesday last.—The first downward step made by the manager of *Her Majesty's Theatre* was the attempt to force a success for Mdle. Favanti. Eight years have elapsed since we prophesied [*vide Athen.* No. 853] concerning the sequel of this measure as regarded the theatre, and gave our judgment of the aspirant, greatly to the offence of many worshipful persons—who were satisfied that since the *Athenæum* was the only journal save one which abstained from raptures, these dissentients must be perverse and malignant.—“Time and the hour,” &c., says the verse. What is now the position of *Her Majesty's Theatre*? What has been the career of Mdle. Favanti since her fatal first nights of bouquet and newspaper triumph?—Mr. Lumley announces his retirement,—owing to heavy losses, say his friends. The *prima donna* who on her first appearance was all but unanimously hailed as being even then better than Malibran in her prime, has sung 'La Cenerentola' a few times in a few foreign Opera-houses without being able to make a home in any of them. Surely, then, this *Da capo* of Mdle. Favanti's return, in her one part, at this juncture, has almost the significance of the apparition of a Fate in the last scenes of some tale of gramarye,—the more so, as the lady is her old self;—little better, seemingly, and little worse, for the eight years that have elapsed since she was heard at *Her Majesty's Theatre*. Her voice is still uncertain in its intonation,—the brilliancy of her execution is still as often simulated as it is real—witness her 'Non più mesta,' in which steady flexibility is required. She is still imperfect in her music and in her own stage-business, and still disregardful of her play-fellows. She was coldly received by a meagre audience; but called on to repeat 'Nacqui l'affanno,'—complimented thereupon with bouquets, as in 1844,—and after the *rondo* as long and warmly applauded as though she had been, not Mdle. Favanti, but Mdle. Lind come back again. The entire performance of the opera—Signor Calzolari's singing excepted—was anything but creditable.

'Casilda,' the composition of H. R. H. the Duke of Saxe Cobourg Gotha, is announced as in rehearsal—also a new ballet.—Madame Chanton is advertised as engaged for a few nights.

HAYMARKET.—'Our New Lady's Maid' is the title of a small piece, adapted from the French, produced on Saturday, for the purpose of introducing to these boards Mrs. Temple,—whose *début* at the Olympic we some time since noticed. The lady does not seem to have acquired more aptitude for the profession than she then displayed,—and the piece, it must be confessed, suffered from her insufficiency. Her character is that of a proscribed lady, during the reign of Louis the Fifteenth, compelled to assume the disguise of lady's maid to the Countess of Rougemont (Mrs. L. S. Buckingham). The Baron Gaston d'Arbal (Mr. Leigh Murray), who is about to be married to the daughter of the French minister, is smitten with the supposed domestic, and eventually breaks off his intended match in her favour. The charms with which she works on her aristocratic lover are *naïveté*, modesty and beauty,—traits which require an experienced actress to bring out efficiently. This drama is slight in its texture, and must depend for its success on being elegantly acted.—The house closed on Thursday with performances for the benefit of Mr. Frederick Webster.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The bills of the Surrey Theatre announce that an entirely new comic Opera, written expressly for that establishment, by Mr. Bunn as librettist and Mr. Balfe as composer, will be produced there on Monday next.

A complimentary evening meeting was given yesterday week by the members of the Musical Institute of London on the occasion of Dr. Spohr's receiving the honorary membership of that body.—Since our last, 'Faust' has been twice repeated at the *Royal Italian Opera*, conducted by its composer, who has now, we believe, left England.—Among the later compositions by Dr. Spohr which are as yet unknown in England, a *Sestett* for two violins, two violas, and two *violinelli*, has been described to us as one of the best works of its writer.

Our contemporaries state, that M. Jullien's opera 'Pietro il Grande' is now in active rehearsal at the *Royal Italian Opera*, and will be positively produced there before the close of the season. Report mentions Mdle. Zerr and Signor Tamberlik as included in the cast.

The *Manchester Examiner* and *Times* inform us, that "the University of Giessen has conferred a doctor's degree in music on Joseph Roiley, the organist of the parish church in Blackburn, for his compositions in sacred music."

We are informed, that Herr Eckert will go with Madame Sontag to America, as conductor and accompanist; and further, that Miss Arabella Goddard, our young and rising pianiste, has been engaged to make one of the party.

The first numbers of the *Gazzetta Musicale di Napoli*, a new periodical, contains a few notices indicating that musical life is not utterly asleep in the absolutist capital. Even at this burning season, 'Piedigrotta,' a new opera in four acts, by Signor Luigi Ricci, just produced at the *Teatro Nuovo*, seems to have been moderately successful. Another opera by Maestro Battista is in preparation at the same theatre, with the title of 'Il Corsaro della Guadalupe.' This will be followed by the 'Violetta' of Mercadante. At the *Teatro Fondo*, 'Dottor Sabato,' by Maestro Puzone, and 'Elena di Tolosa,' by Maestro Petrella, are promised.—No singer who has not been already named in the *Athenæum* is spoken favourably of, with the exception of Signor Pancani, a tenor. The critic compliments him on the possession of a good organ, vigorous and masculine, especially in its middle notes,—but continues, "as a singer we can say little for him. In 'Otello' he makes his task easy, by depriving his part of the larger part of its florid ornaments, which require vocal agility."—The *maestri* invited to write for the *Teatro San Carlo* during the coming winter are announced to be, Signori Mercadante, De Gioia and Staffa. "The last *maestro*," says the *Gazzetta*, "in order to obtain new musical effects has sought for a subject of the fanciful description;—and to avoid competition with operas of the same description has suggested as subject"—the reader will hardly guess what—"Alceste." Signor Verdi is described as having his hands too full of commissions to have time to promise anything new to *San Carlo*. Nor is Signor De Gioia secured, since he, too, is said to be in request,—being at present occupied in setting 'Diego Garias' for the Grand Theatre at Trieste.—The same *Gazzetta* announces an interesting acquisition just made by the Library of the College of Music. This is, a collection of MSS. by Cimarosa. "It is well known," says the paragraph, "that the *Maestro* sent everything that he composed to Cardinal Gonsalvi, who was his warm admirer, and who bequeathed the collection to Signor Paola Cimarosa, son of the composer. This gentleman has disposed of the MSS. (which include many unpublished works) to the College of Music, for the sum of two thousand ducats, and a life annuity of seventy ducats."

The directors of Fine Arts in Paris have commissioned for the *foyer* of the *Opéra Comique* the busts of the principal dramatists and musicians whose names have been associated with that theatre. The list will include Grétry, Berton, Sedaine, Marmontel, Nicolo, Boieldieu, Hérold, Marsollier,

town will at the same time be the scene of other proceedings which have an interest in connexion with the name of Sir Robert Peel. The erection of the building for the local Athenæum, in which the great statesman took a deep interest, and towards which he subscribed 100l., has left the committee in debt,—and it is intended to hold a Bazaar and Exhibition in the hope of raising a sum sufficient to liquidate their liabilities and set the institution on its legs. The Exhibition is to open on the 2nd of August,—probably about the time of the inauguration of the Peel monument: and sculptors have been applied to for the loan of their works in order to increase the interest of the show and do honour to the occasion.

We hear with regret that Mr. John Craik—whose extraordinary specimen of calligraphic art, as employed in the transcript of the Russian poet Derzhavin's 'Poem on 'God,' we brought recently under the notice of our readers—has since that work was executed been smitten with a painful illness, which, says the correspondent who communicates the fact, will, it is too probable, cause the language of appreciation to fall only on ears for ever dead to censure or to praise. Mr. Craik, says our informant, was an enthusiast in his particular pursuit,—which he elevated almost to the rank of a Fine Art; and to his teaching is owing that quality of minute rendering which has raised more than one artist of the present day to eminence in certain of the higher walks of Art. "The pupils," says our correspondent, "of the old writing-master are spread all over the world;—and it is under the impression that this brief allusion to the man and his misfortune in your columns may attract the attention of some of them, and thereby help to secure such additional comforts for him in his day of sickness as may contribute to alleviate his suffering, that I have ventured to address you on the subject."

We may mention that Mr. Snare has finally turned his alleged Velasquez portrait of Charles the First—to which the arbitrary and unlawful conduct of others has given so much more notoriety and importance than it ever deserved—to some substantial account. The litigation in this case has terminated by his accepting the offer of the Earl of Fife's trustees to pay him 530l. in full of his claim for damages.

Correspondence from Rome announces the discovery of a magnificent bath of Oriental alabaster by workmen employed in repairing the watercourses of that city. It has been found on the Piazzas of the Holy Apostles, in the immediate vicinity of Trajan's Forum,—and no doubt was formerly one of the ornaments of that gorgeous fabric. Unfortunately, it has been somewhat damaged by previous workmen:—who appear to have broken a hole through the alabaster side, in order to pass a water conduit through it.

A paragraph of court gossip from the East of Europe, which may have its interest for our readers, is a report to the effect that the Empress of Russia, on occasion of her recent visit to the Rhine, made a donation of 50,000 ducats—about 14,000l.—to the fund for completing Cologne Cathedral. There now appears to be some probability that in our day this unique structure may receive its last touch: money only being wanting—and this the various members of the royal family of Hohenzollern seem determined to supply.

We hear from Bavaria that the Pompeian house which King Louis the First ordered to be erected in the midst of the park of his domain is completed, and has become an object of great interest to the archaeologists of Germany. It is executed after drawings by the late celebrated Herr Kleutze. The principal mural pictures are by Herr Nilsson of Munich; who took the subjects from Pompeii itself,—where he resided five years for the purpose. In the middle of the back wall of the *atrium* is the superb antique mosaic presented to King Louis by Pope Pius the Ninth; and to render the illusion complete, the King has surrounded the edifice with orange, palm and other Italian trees. From the terrace of the grand court, the eye ranges over a magnificent panorama,—embracing in the distance Mount Taunus and the chain of the Odenwald and of Freigericht.

Delarac, Monsigny, Saint-Just, Méhul, Favart, and Étienne.

Mdlle. Westerland, of Stockholm, is mentioned in the *Gazette Musicale* as a young singer of good voice and great promise,—who is at present studying German at Berlin, with a view to commencing an operatic career in Germany.

The lessee of the Marylebone Theatre, Mr. E. T. Smith, called (on Friday week) a meeting of dramatic authors, managers, and actors, at the Garrick's Head, to complain of the conduct of the Lord Chamberlain in refusing a licence for the performance of a version of 'Jack Sheppard' at his theatre while granting one for that of another version at the Adelphi. The authority of the Licensor was extended by the Act for liberating the stage to many theatres not before included within his jurisdiction; and the piece in question happened to be one performed at the Pavilion, not only previously to the passing of that Act, but three weeks previously to the original production of the version by Mr. Buckstone now proposed to be revived at the Adelphi, and which, in the official note from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, is stated to be the *only* adaptation of the subject that will henceforth be permitted. To us, it appears,—as our readers will have gathered elsewhere in our columns to-day,—that the Lord Chamberlain is less censurable for refusing the licence to the other theatres than for granting it to the Adelphi;—but supposing the subject to be admissible at all on the boards, impartiality demands that free trade should be granted to its treatment. The office of licensing plays was originally of a political character, and has always been very properly the object of dramatic jealousy; and any abuse of it is likely to excite a strong feeling of resentment. The principles of Milton's famous plea for "unlicensed printing" are fairly applicable to "unlicensed acting," and the argument against a previous censorship in either case is equally strong.—At the meeting which gave rise to these remarks, a series of resolutions was carried; and a solicitor volunteered to carry a bill through Parliament on the subject free of expense. A petition is, of course, to be signed for that purpose. We could have wished that the matter had been mooted in connexion with a topic more worthy of interference than the various worthless dramas bearing the title of 'Jack Sheppard,' and once extant at all the theatres. The best solution of the question now would be, the withdrawal of the piece underlined at the Adelphi,—although to the disappointment of Mrs. Keeley, who is announced to personate the hero. The production of the piece has, indeed, been postponed, in consequence of an accident, during rehearsal, to that lady,—who, in descending a ladder, fell with it, and sprained her ankle. The injury experienced by her is, we regret to add, reported as being very severe.

Drury Lane Theatre has been taken for a summer season by a gentleman named Mr. Sheridan Smith, for the purpose of testing the merits of Mr. M'Kean Buchanan, the young American tragedian whose *début* at the Marylebone a few weeks ago we duly noticed. The theatre will open on Monday with the tragedy of 'Hamlet.'

MISCELLANEA

Lieut. Burton's 'Falconry in the Valley of the Indus.'—We have received a letter from Lieut. Burton in answer to certain of the remarks which we made last week on his work above named. As it is written with great courtesy and in excellent temper, we will give Mr. Burton the benefit, as shortly as we can, of the principal propositions which he thinks it important to have laid before our readers.—In the first place, he states, that his sketch of his early career was not adduced by him as an intended "answer to the imputation of 'extreme opinions' and 'disregard of moderation,'"—but because he conceives that "he could not have told his readers how his evidence had been collected without faithfully recording many things which as a matter of taste might have been suppressed:"—and he suggests that "this part of his sketch may induce some future undergraduate who fails to attain academical honours to seek some

more suitable field for his labours."—In the second place, he begs that we will not "tell him what he is from those he lives with," according to the Spanish proverb,—because, it is impossible in the East "to acquire an intimate knowledge of Oriental manners and customs without mixing familiarly with all orders—low as well as high."—Lastly, he begs to qualify the charge which we describe him as having brought against the British Reviewer. The "ignorance crasse" which he attributed to that personage relates merely, he explains, to Indian subjects,—which "necessarily require," he thinks, "long residence in the East:"—and for the "dishonest motives" which we consider him to have insinuated against critics in general—he would have us substitute the less offensive word "prejudice."

Civil List Pensions.—The following list of pensions granted between the 20th day of June, 1851, and the 20th day of June, 1852, and charged upon the Civil List, has been issued.—1851—August 30, Anna Jameson, 100*l.*, in consideration of her literary merits. September 1, Maria Long, 100*l.*, in consideration of the service of her late husband, Mr. Frederick Beckford Long, Inspector-General of Prisons in Ireland, and of his having died from illness contracted while in the execution of his duty, by which she is placed in circumstances of great distress. September 1, James Silk Buckingham, 200*l.*, in consideration of his literary works and useful travels in various countries. September 2, Robert Torrens, F.R.S., 200*l.*, in consideration of his valuable contributions to the science of political economy. October 10, John Wilson, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, 300*l.*, in consideration of his eminent literary merits. October 10, Elizabeth Reid, 50*l.*, (widow of Dr. James S. Reid, Professor of Ecclesiastical and Civil History in the University of Glasgow); and Jane Arnott Reid, Elizabeth Reid, and Mary Reid, 50*l.* (daughters of the above, and for the survivors or survivor of them), in consideration of Dr. Reid's valuable contributions to literature, and of the distressed condition in which his widow and children are placed by his decease.—February 5, 1852—Eliza MacArthur, 50*l.*, in consideration of the merits of her late husband, Dr. Alexander MacArthur, superintendent of model schools, and inspector of the Dublin district under the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and of his having been attacked by mental derangement, attributed solely to his unbounded exertions in the discharge of his official duties, and also in consideration that the pension of 200*l.* per annum, which was granted to her during the lifetime of her husband, has lapsed by his decease. April 5.—John Britton, 75*l.*, in consideration of his literary merits and impoverished condition. April 5.—Mary Fitzgibbon, 75*l.*, in consideration of the signal services rendered by her father, Colonel James Fitzgibbon, on various occasions in Canada, and of the destitute condition in which she will be left at her father's death.

Depth of the Deluge demonstrated.—In your last number is a letter signed "P. M'Farlane," with the above heading, containing an attempt at criticism on some passages in Capt. Strachey's account of the elevated region of Tibet.—Capt. Strachey says, that the plain of Tibet, at an elevation of 14,000 or 15,000 feet, is composed of tertiary rocks:—of course he took for granted that those tertiary rocks were accumulated under the sea, and were formed accordingly beneath the present sea level. They must, therefore, have been elevated 14,000 or 15,000 feet & the depth under the sea at which they were originally deposited since their formation,—that is, since the tertiary period,—and moreover since a very late part of the tertiary period, or they would not contain the bones of the elephant and the rhinoceros. Mr. P. M'Farlane, unable, it appears, to understand this, the plainest and simplest of all conclusions, supposes Capt. Strachey to assert that the "protuberance" of Tibet rose to the surface after the secondary and before the tertiary period;—and then proceeds to write irrelevantly about "cones and pyramids, and ridges with cutting edges, and molar and canine teeth."—I am, &c. J. BRETHERTON.

An Electric Telegraph Express.—During the transmission of the late electric telegraph returns for Government, the Post-office, and the newspapers, the extraordinary rate of 150 words and 48 stops, says the *Times*, was attained in two minutes by an improved instrument.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—M. L. P.—An Observer—J. A. S.—A. P.—***—Veritas—received.

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